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# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

## Belarus

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Belarus was held at the 1st meeting, on 4 May 2015. The delegation of Belarus was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Valentin Rybakov. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 May 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Belarus.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Belarus: Algeria, Pakistan and Paraguay.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Belarus:

(a) A national report (A/HRC/WG.6/22/BLR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/ BLR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/22/ BLR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Belarus through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group.

# I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

## A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation emphasized the importance of the universal periodic review to Belarus as a mechanism for the objective assessment of the human rights situation in every country. Belarus had worked on the implementation of the recommendations from the first cycle. Progress had been regularly monitored, involving all branches of Government, the academic community, civil society and the United Nations, and a midterm progress report on implementation had been submitted.

6. The national report had been prepared in partnership with civil society through four rounds of national consultation, which had resulted in measures such as equipping polling stations with Braille materials from 2015.

7. Human rights and freedoms were guaranteed in the Constitution and widely recognized principles of international law had been transposed into national legislation. As a relatively new State, Belarus had set itself ambitious tasks in protecting the rights of its citizens. In a complex geopolitical situation, Belarus remained an island of peace, tranquillity and order, thanks to strong State power and effective State policy.

8. In the past five years, Belarus had climbed 15 places in the Human Development Index; almost all of the Millennium Development Goals had been achieved, five of them ahead of schedule. Other positive indicators had been achieved in the fields of education, gender equality, improving the quality of drinking water and immunization of children.

9. Belarus had acceded to six international instruments in the past five years and was preparing to sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Numerous legislative changes had been adopted as part of the accessions. In 2013, a judicial reform programme had commenced with the aim of strengthening judicial independence and making other improvements to the system. Numerous laws were under preparation in other fields and in 2015, a National Strategy on Sustainable Socioeconomic Growth to 2030 had been prepared. There were institutions for the protection and promotion of various human rights and, although not perfect, they were generally effective.

10. Discrimination was forbidden under the Constitution and criminally punishable, as was hate speech. The 2013 concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination referred to the country's protection of freedom of religion and belief. Belarus had taken measures in the field of gender equality; 30 per cent of the parliamentarians in Belarus were women.

11. The death penalty had been retained in Belarus as a temporary measure and was applicable only to the most serious crimes. The delegation noted the specific restrictions on its use, the country's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the continuous public focus on the issue. The parliamentary group established to study the issue had resumed its work in 2012. While public opinion in favour of a moratorium and gradual abolition was important, current opinion polls indicated that 70 per cent of respondents favoured its retention. In 2015, the possibility of substituting a death sentence with life imprisonment by agreement with the prosecution had been introduced.

12. Regarding the situation of detainees, the increasing numbers of appeals to the courts indicated confidence in the system. There was public oversight of prisons and civil society organizations had access to them. In 2015, a definition of torture that was in compliance with the definition contained in the Convention against Torture had been introduced into the Criminal Code. Six prisons were being reconstructed, subject to the country's financial constraints.

13. The current National Action Plan for the improvement of the situation of children and the protection of their rights had been under implementation since 2012. It included many measures that had been recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. There had been developments in juvenile justice and measures to improve child protection, including increased rates of adoption.

14. Belarus had made significant progress in addressing domestic violence, including the introduction of the concept into legislation. A draft law on domestic violence was under preparation and a series of relevant measures were in place.

15. The law on combating trafficking in human beings had been adopted in 2012. The delegation described the relevant measures that had been taken, including in the field of victim support.

16. Belarus had accepted the competence of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to receive individual complaints. Only 20 countries worldwide had accepted the competence of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to receive individual complaints. Belarus had repeatedly stated that it did not recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and had explained its concerns about how the mandate had been created. Presidential elections would be held in 2015. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) principles would be respected and the elections would be transparent with national, regional and international oversight secured. There were no reports to the treaty bodies overdue.

17. A unified judicial system had been created and the military courts had been abolished. In January 2014, the executive had relinquished all its authority in relation to judicial administration. Work continued on the creation of a professional corps of judges; 40 per cent were currently under the age of 40 and more than half were currently women. The practices in the appointment of judges were consistent with those throughout the world. More than half of the judges were now on lifetime appointments. Belarus was moving towards an appellate system for appeals in both criminal and civil law. Other developments included the use of modern technology and the introduction of mediation to settle civil disputes.

18. As for progress in the development of civil society, as of January 2015, more than 2,500 civil society organizations were registered and the trend in increasing registrations was being sustained. The process of registration of organizations was carried out strictly in accordance with the law and everything possible had been done to ensure that the process was not burdensome. Some individuals had knowingly submitted false information which had prevented the registration of their organizations and there had been cases in which groups had used their unregistered status for political ends. In February 2014, new legislation had simplified the process for registration, regulation of statutes and liquidation of political parties and civil society organizations.

19. The delegation outlined the principles applied in the regulation of the legal profession and mentioned the new law on the legal profession, which had entered into force in 2013.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 95 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

21. Sweden was deeply concerned about the continued use of the death penalty and noted new legislation which increased State control over the Internet.

22. Switzerland deplored the intimidation of civil society and expressed concern at impunity for perpetrators of torture.

23. Syria commended Belarus for the steps it had taken to improve national legislation and ensure its compatibility with its human rights commitments, as well as efforts to guarantee the right to education.

24. Tajikistan noted that the practical steps taken by Belarus bore witness to the country's willingness to fulfil its international obligations.

25. Thailand encouraged Belarus to establish a national human rights institution and adopt measures on persons with disabilities.

26. Turkmenistan welcomed the amendments that had been made to national legislation aimed, inter alia, at strengthening democratic reforms and the formation of civil society.

27. The United Arab Emirates noted the efforts of Belarus to combat human trafficking, adopt national legislation, train law enforcement officials and accede to treaties.

28. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Belarus to improve democratic standards for the forthcoming elections.

29. Noting the release of Ales Bialiatski, the United States of America asked Belarus to release all political prisoners, and highlighted restrictions on free expression, civil society and the media.

30. Uruguay welcomed the fact that Belarus was preparing to sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

31. Argentina welcomed the 2012–2016 action plan on children's rights. It urged Belarus to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

32. Uzbekistan noted the achievements Belarus had made in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and its efforts in combating trafficking in persons.

33. Viet Nam highlighted the progress Belarus had made to ensure social security, health services, education and decent work conditions and to protect vulnerable groups.

34. Zimbabwe noted the social welfare policies for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, as well as the human rights education awareness programme.

35. Algeria welcomed the accession of Belarus to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its efforts towards accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

36. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledged the implementation of the previous universal periodic review recommendations and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the social protection policies in place in Belarus.

37. Austria commended Belarus for its more constructive engagement with European partners.

38. Azerbaijan noted the strengthening of the human rights legal framework, the better understanding between religions and the cooperation of Belarus with human rights mechanisms.

39. Bahrain commended the measures that had been taken to implement previous universal periodic review recommendations, to improve minorities' rights and to combat xenophobia and racial discrimination.

40. Bangladesh noted the achievements Belarus had made in implementing free and compulsory education, raising women's education to a high level and reducing maternal and infant mortality.

41. Belgium welcomed the submission by Belarus of a progress report on the implementation of its universal periodic review recommendations.

42. Nicaragua commended Belarus for the legislative reforms it had introduced based on universal periodic review recommendations, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the national plan on international technical cooperation.

43. Bosnia and Herzegovina commended Belarus for its ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its efforts to establish a national human rights institution.

44. Brazil welcomed the national plan on gender equality.

45. Botswana noted the legislative and policy measures that had been taken since the previous review. It was concerned about mass arrests of demonstrators.

46. Brunei Darussalam commended Belarus for its efforts to improve and adopt national legislation to fulfil its international obligations.

47. Canada was deeply concerned at the ongoing detention of political prisoners and at continuing restrictions on civil society.

48. Chile urged Belarus to strengthen its coopera'ion with human rights mechanisms, especially the special procedures.

49. China welcomed the comprehensive measures to enhance social protection and to ensure that the elderly and others had an adequate standard of living.

50. The Congo was concerned that conventions protecting the rights of migrant workers had yet to be incorporated into national legislation.

51. Costa Rica noted the progress made.

52. Croatia identified the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression as the most urgent issue.

53. Singapore noted the adoption of legislation on trafficking in persons in 2012 and the implementation of related policies.

54. The Czech Republic made recommendations.

55. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea mentioned the considerable progress made in the implementation of the recommendations from the first universal periodic review.

56. Belarus outlined the priorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The operations of the police in detaining persons, using physical force, firearms and other means was strictly regulated in law. Detained persons had the right to judicial examination of the legality of their detention. The law also allowed people to submit complaints about the behaviour of police officers; 6,000 such complaints had been received in 2014, which represented a 10 per cent reduction from 2013. After investigation, one in ten of the complaints had been found to be justified and appropriate measures had been taken. Only five complaints had been received concerning the unlawful use of force. The same trends in the statistics had been seen from the start of 2015.

57. Public prosecutors focused on preventing violations of the constitutional rights of citizens as the best method of preventing human rights violations and the indicators showed increased public confidence in the prosecutorial system. In cases of mass gatherings, the prosecutors worked to ensure that public order was maintained and to protect the rights of all citizens, not just that of participants. Prosecutors played an important role in preventing illegal immigration, in the light of the threat of terrorism, and were also engaged in monitoring the Internet to gather evidence on issues such as trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking and threats to public order. They also thoroughly investigated all complains of torture or inhuman treatment.

58. The delegation outlined the policies of Belarus on the execution of sanctions, including the legal framework, and noted that compulsory labour for prisoners did not constitute forced labour under the terms of the conventions of the International Labour Organization. Prison management authorities were open to cooperation with civil society organizations, including international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and there was a State system for oversight of penal institutions which also included judicial oversight. NGOs could participate in the commissions for oversight and also had access to the correctional institutions outside of the commission, as did religious organizations. Furthermore, NGOs could participate in rehabilitation activities.

59. Belarus had been cooperating with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and had invited the special procedures to visit the country, but responses had not yet been received. However, it did not support the mandates of the special procedures that violated the Human Rights Council resolutions on institution-building. The political engagement of certain mandate holders was not conducive to respectful dialogue and they had thus not been invited. Belarus had cooperated actively with OHCHR and in 2011, the High Commissioner had been invited to visit. Technical cooperation activities had been undertaken and consultations on the possible creation of an Ombudsman had also included

international experts, representatives of the Council of Europe and civil society, and representatives of organizations that did not support the Government's policies. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action gave States the right to decide upon the appropriate national structures.

60. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons enjoyed equality, including the availability of free sex-change surgery.

61. Denmark welcomed the release of Ales Bialiatski, but remained concerned at the situation regarding freedom of expression and assembly and remaining political prisoners.

62. Ecuador acknowledged the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations on free education and the national action plan on gender equality.

63. Egypt welcomed steps to combat human trafficking and prevent torture, and legal reforms, particularly amendments to the Labour and Criminal Procedure Codes.

64. El Salvador commended efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations and the priority given to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

65. Estonia noted increased engagement in discussing human rights but regretted the fact that Belarus refused to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus.

66. Ethiopia commended the wide coverage of social services, such as access to medical services and elementary and secondary education.

67. Finland was concerned about reports of discrimination and profiling of members of the Roma community, but noted positive practices in ensuring their access to primary education.

68. France made recommendations.

69. Germany appreciated the fact that there had been positive signs from Belarus on human rights, but was concerned that the overall human rights situation remained dire.

70. Ghana commended the inclusion of torture in the Criminal Code as well as other changes relating to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

71. Greece was concerned about violations of the right to freedom of assembly, restrictions on Internet freedom and other issues.

72. Guatemala welcomed the accession of Belarus to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its adoption of the law on international labour migration.

73. The Holy See welcomed the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Act and commended measures to support families with children.

74. Hungary noted endeavours to establish a national human rights institution and efforts to eliminate domestic violence and protect women's rights.

75. India commended the clearance of the backlog of reports to the treaty bodies and noted cooperation with the special procedures. It appreciated the achievements Belarus had made in terms of the Millennium Development Goals and encouraged it to strengthen its capacities in pursuit of gender parity.

76. Indonesia appreciated the comparative analysis of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted the study conducted on establishing a national human rights institution.

77. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended measures that Belarus had taken concerning children's rights, health care, the elimination of domestic violence, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

78. Iraq noted the adoption of legislation on education and on migrants and the submission of reports to treaty bodies, including the common core document.

79. Ireland urged Belarus to promote wider use of the Belarusian language in all areas of life, including education and culture.

80. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

81. Japan appreciated steps taken to implement the National Action Plan for Gender Equality.

82. Kazakhstan welcomed the efforts Belarus had made in the areas of children's and women's rights, counter-trafficking, education and the judiciary.

83. Kuwait commended Belarus for its adoption of legislation promoting human rights, which aimed to achieve equality among its citizens.

84. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the accession of Belarus to several international instruments, its progress in improving medical services, and the measures it had taken to meet the Millennium Development Goals, combat human trafficking and achieve gender equality.

85. Latvia remained concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus, in particular with regard to freedom of assembly, association and expression.

86. Lithuania noted the progress that had been made in certain areas with regard to its recommendations from the first universal periodic review.

87. Luxembourg was concerned about restrictions that were placed on human rights defenders and journalists and urged Belarus to cooperate with the special procedures.

88. Malaysia noted the efforts and progress made in the establishment of a national human rights institution, poverty alleviation, women's rights and the promotion of children's rights.

89. Mexico commended the progress made concerning the Millennium Development Goals and education. It urged Belarus to ensure that members of the Roma community had access to education without discrimination.

90. Montenegro encouraged Belarus to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and to abolish the death penalty.

91. Morocco noted the willingness of Belarus to eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment and maternal and infant mortality and the measures it was taking to combat human trafficking.

92. Myanmar noted progress in the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations.

93. Namibia commended Belarus for the amendments it had made to various legislative instruments including the Education Code and the Presidential Decree on improving the judicial system.

94. Belarus stated that it was among world leaders in terms of access to health care and had fully integrated the World Health Organization Health 2020 policy into its national policies. Access was equal for all regardless of age, sex, place of residence, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or social status. Progress had been made since the first universal

periodic review, inter alia, in combating tuberculosis and in sexual and reproductive health, in cooperation with United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Population Fund.

95. The delegation highlighted the damage caused by the Chernobyl disaster and how it had been able to cope with its own resources. The experience of Belarus meant it was one of the top ten countries in the world in the treatment of childhood leukaemia.

96. The level of employment in Belarus was high and programmes were in place to support persons who were less competitive in the labour market. There had been a consistent increase in the standard of living and quality of life. Pay, pensions and family allowances had increased in the past four years. The poverty index for Belarus had reduced by a factor of 8.7 in the last 14 years. Despite the ageing population, the pension age had been maintained at 55 and 60 years for women and men, respectively.

97. Protection of children and the family was a priority for the Government and there had been recent increases in family allowances. Women enjoyed equal access to education and training and in other spheres. The slight gender pay gap was down to the fact that more men than women were employed in industry, construction and dangerous professions, which provided higher remuneration. Men and women received equal pay for equal work. Recently adopted legislation and government programmes ensured that persons with disabilities enjoyed unhindered access to social infrastructure, a better quality of life and improved integration into society.

98. Monopolization of the mass media and censorship were forbidden and the Law on the Mass Media also guaranteed freedom of thought, belief and expression. The population and journalists enjoyed free access to information, which was facilitated by regular government press conferences. The information space in Belarus was open and there were foreign media among the 7,000 registered media organizations and 193 registered foreign television stations. Some 1,573 print media publications were registered, including publications in Russian, Belarusian and foreign languages. Amendments to the media law in January 2015 aimed at social protection and national security had broadened electronic access to information. While no registration was necessary for Internet access, the legislation addressed the threats and challenges arising from pornography, drug promotion and extremism on the Internet. A State commission was working to identify extremist materials.

99. The Netherlands appreciated the cooperation of Belarus with the European Union on human rights. It remained concerned about the state of democracy and human rights.

100. The Plurinational State of Bolivia acknowledged progress in the implementation of human rights in Belarus.

101. Nigeria commended Belarus for improvements to its legislation in the implementation of certain universal periodic review recommendations.

102. Norway regretted that Belarus had made little effort since the last review to address its systematic denial of human rights.

103. Oman welcomed the methodology that had been implemented in dealing with the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It noted the efforts Belarus had made, particularly on the independence of the judiciary.

104. Pakistan commended Belarus for its decision to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its adoption of legislation to counter trafficking and improve the judicial system and its constructive engagement with OHCHR.

105. Paraguay asked about progress made by the parliamentary working group on the death penalty and in terms of the criminalization of torture, and encouraged Belarus to increase its cooperation with the special procedures.

106. Peru expressed concern about the lack of a national human rights institution, the lack of independence of the judiciary and the government control of the media.

107. The Philippines welcomed the increased participation of women in political and social life and encouraged Belarus to continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

108. Poland expressed concern at continued human rights violations which were of a systemic and systematic nature.

109. Portugal was concerned at systematic violations of human rights and noted that Belarus was the only country in Europe to apply the death penalty.

110. The Republic of Korea appreciated the adoption by Belarus of legislation on equality in education, preventing human trafficking, improving the judicial system and supporting families with children.

111. Romania commended the steps taken since the last review, while noting challenges hindering the full enjoyment of human rights.

112. The Russian Federation welcomed the consistent cooperation of Belarus with the universal periodic review and the measures it had taken to strengthen human rights protection.

113. Rwanda commended the adoption of laws and regulations aimed at improving national legislation and noted the significant reduction in infant mortality.

114. Senegal welcomed the accession of Belarus to several human rights conventions and the legislative measures it had taken to guarantee quality education and better functioning of the judiciary.

115. Serbia commended the efforts Belarus had made in the universal periodic review process and its engagement with non-governmental stakeholders.

116. Sierra Leone acknowledged the progress Belarus had made since the first universal periodic review and urged it to prosecute all acts of violence against women.

117. Cuba stated that Belarus had undeniably made progress on human rights.

118. Slovakia invited Belarus to accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and expressed concern about the independence and impartiality of the justice system.

119. Slovenia noted the commitment of Belarus to the international trend towards the gradual abolition of the death penalty. It remained concerned about continuing human rights violations.

120. Spain was concerned that Belarus continued to be the last country in Europe to apply the death penalty.

121. Sri Lanka recognized the efforts of Belarus to safeguard the socioeconomic rights of its people, as reflected in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

122. The State of Palestine acknowledged the efforts of Belarus to promote and protect human rights since the first review and welcomed various measures to ensure the education of children.

123. The Sudan noted with satisfaction the legislative and judicial reforms related to education, copyright protection, trafficking and the achievement of five of the Millennium Development Goals.

124. Uganda noted the accession of Belarus to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the amendments to the Marriage and Family Codes and the Labour Code.

125. Australia remained deeply concerned by continuing violations of human rights in Belarus, particularly in relation to political prisoners and the death penalty.

126. Belarus stated that it would continue to develop and improve its system of human rights protection and promotion. The Government's interaction with international organizations, including the current review, would strengthen its achievements.

## II. Conclusions and recommendations**

127. **The recommendations listed below have been examined by Belarus and enjoy the support of Belarus:**

127.1 **Carry out public campaigns explaining the arguments for the abolition of the death penalty with the aim of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia);**

127.2 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Ecuador) (Peru) (Rwanda);**

127.3 **Continue its review efforts with a view to ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in the future (Philippines);**

127.4 **Reconsider its conclusion not to accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as contained in Recommendation 1 (Nigeria);**

127.5 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

127.6 **Continue taking measures with a view to ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a priority (Indonesia);**

127.7 **Speed up the procedures to complete the process of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq);**

127.8 **Finalize the process of accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its earliest (Kazakhstan);**

127.9 **Conclude domestic processes relating to signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Zimbabwe);**

127.10 **Accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible. In the interim continue to do what it can to counter discrimination against people with disabilities and to promote their inclusion in society (Singapore);**

127.11 **Continue efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional basis of the national system for the protection of human rights (Uzbekistan);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

127.12 **Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with international human rights norms (Morocco);**

127.13 **Observe all human rights principles, international conventions and raise awareness among the population regarding human rights values (Turkmenistan);**

127.14 **Pursue fulfilling its obligations under international human rights mechanisms in the future (Kazakhstan);**

127.15 **Study the possibility of creating a follow-up system on international recommendations which includes universal periodic review accepted recommendations (Paraguay);**

127.16 **Continue its efforts for the establishment of the national human rights institution (Sudan);**

127.17 **Facilitate the necessary process for establishing a national human rights institution, which should ensure the enjoyment of basic human rights for all citizens (Republic of Korea);**

127.18 **Redouble efforts aimed at establishing an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Chile);**

127.19 **Take further steps aimed at strengthening its national institution in the area of protection and promotion of the rights of the child (Egypt);**

127.20 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as previously recommended (Malaysia);**

127.21 **Consider the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Zimbabwe);**

127.22 **Consider the appropriateness of establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Nicaragua);**

127.23 **Strengthen government cooperation with civil society organizations in ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights (Uzbekistan);**

127.24 **Strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations (Russian Federation);**

127.25 **Enhance its interaction with human rights organizations, as well as continue working on mechanisms of consultation between the Government and civil society, including enabling more effective involvement of civil society in the preparation of legal acts (Serbia);**

127.26 **Strengthen further the links of cooperation and coordination with civil society as regards the promotion and protection of human rights (Morocco);**

127.27 **Continue constructive cooperation with the universal mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and also the practice of cooperation with civil society (Tajikistan);**

127.28 **Continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);**

127.29 **Further engage with relevant international stakeholders, including United Nations human rights mechanisms (Viet Nam);**

127.30 **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations, other international organizations and human rights mechanisms to overcome remaining constraints and challenges (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

127.31 **Submit its overdue report to the Human Rights Committee (Ghana);**

127.32 **Deploy necessary human, legal and financial measures in order to effectively implement the recommendations issued by the United Nations treaty bodies (Senegal);**

127.33 **Strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by permitting visits by special procedures mandate holders (Hungary);**

127.34 **Cooperate fully and effectively with the United Nations treaty bodies and special procedures and ensure that reports are submitted without delay (Slovakia);**

127.35 **Continue strengthening the cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, through joint activities to improve national capacities in the field of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.36 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination in judicial practices and law enforcement (Oman);**

127.37 **Develop national mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable groups in the population (Tajikistan);**

127.38 **Continue its efforts in promotion of well-being of people with the emphasis on the most vulnerable ones (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

127.39 **Continue the efforts to support the most vulnerable groups of population, including those efforts that guarantee the social inclusion of persons with disabilities (Cuba);**

127.40 **Make further investment in the protection and promotion of women's and children's rights (Viet Nam);**

127.41 **Continue to implement its plan to combat discrimination against women (Bahrain);**

127.42 **Continue working so that women's rights are fully respected (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.43 **Adequately resource the implementation of the Fourth National Plan of Action on Gender Equality and promptly adopt the draft law on prevention of domestic violence (Lithuania);**

127.44 **Continue to implement the national gender equality policy framework developed in 2012 (Pakistan);**

127.45 **Strengthen the capacity and enhance the resources of the National Commission on Gender Policy to ensure the full enjoyment of gender equality (Namibia);**

127.46 **Continue its efforts in ensuring gender equality and to diversify academic and vocational choices for women and men and take further measures to encourage women and men to choose non-traditional fields of education and careers (State of Palestine);**

127.47 **Further abolish any discriminatory practices against women in accessing higher education, diversify academic disciplines for men and women, and take additional measures to encourage men and women to choose non-traditional career choices (Thailand);**

127.48 **Continue its efforts to remedy the wage gap between men and women (Philippines);**

127.49 **Continue current efforts to protect and promote women workers' rights (Syrian Arab Republic);**

127.50 **Strengthen the measures aimed at reducing cases of racial discrimination, both direct and indirect, and investigate speech inciting racial hatred and speech inciting racial violence (Argentina);**

127.51 **Strictly implement its international obligations on addressing the impunity of perpetrators of torture, notably article 4 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);**

127.52 **Combat torture committed in particular by law enforcement officers and in prisons and ensure that such acts not remain unpunished (France);**

127.53 **Develop a legislative package for the prevention of and combating of gender-based violence and provide greater financial and human resources to the National Council on Gender Policy (Spain);**

127.54 **Actively combat domestic violence and violence against children (Tajikistan);**

127.55 **Continue its efforts aimed at combating domestic violence (Algeria);**

127.56 **Continue developing systematic actions, including legislative ones, to combat domestic violence (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.57 **Continue its efforts in improving protection of women's rights, including combating domestic violence (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

127.58 **Continue the national efforts to combat domestic violence (Kuwait);**

127.59 **Intensify efforts in combating domestic violence and violence against women including through effective implementation of its Principles of Crime Prevention Act (Malaysia);**

127.60 **Further enhance efforts to address the issue of domestic violence and victim assistance (Myanmar);**

127.61 **Intensify efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence against women as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Rwanda);**

127.62 **Continue efforts in the prevention of violence against children (Russian Federation);**

127.63 **Continue to provide protection for the victims of trafficking in persons and to strengthen its national laws and to foster cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of combating trafficking in persons (United Arab Emirates);**

127.64 **Take additional measures to combat trafficking in persons (Bahrain);**

127.65 **Take necessary steps for prevention of violence against children and promotion and protection of women's rights especially combating trafficking in women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

127.66 **Continue to ensure the effective implementation of its legislation and policies to prevent and combat human trafficking (Singapore);**

127.67 **Take further steps to ensure practical realization of the improved national legislation, in particular in the areas of children's and women's rights protection, counter-trafficking, education and judiciary (Kazakhstan);**

127.68 **Continue working to fight against human trafficking and share its best practices in that regard (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.69 **Continue to strive towards the consolidation of international efforts in the combating of trafficking in human beings, including through educational courses based at the Minsk Centre (Russian Federation);**

127.70 **Build upon the existing structures and strengthen the protection of victims of human trafficking, but also address the root causes of this phenomenon and involve preventative measures (Serbia);**

127.71 **Continue the efforts to promote in the international agenda the issue of the fight against trafficking in persons (Cuba);**

127.72 **Strengthen its work towards combating trafficking in persons with assistance from the relevant United Nations agencies and the international community, as deemed necessary (Sri Lanka);**

127.73 **Enhance job opportunities at home for the population susceptible to human trafficking, especially those from disadvantaged background who seek employment overseas (Thailand);**

127.74 **Ensure that the judiciary is free from any interference from other branches of Government (Switzerland);**

127.75 **Continue promoting, by all appropriate means, the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Senegal);**

127.76 **Support the institution of the traditional family and the preservation of family values (Russian Federation);**

127.77 **Continue the efforts to promote and protect traditional family values (Kuwait);**

127.78 **Continue strengthening its efforts in ensuring the well-being of children, particularly those living in foster care, so that they could enjoy living in a healthy family environment (Malaysia);**

127.79 **Improve the overall situation of media freedom (Slovenia);**

127.80 **Take the steps necessary to ensure that its upcoming presidential elections are free, fair and in line with international standards, in full respect of article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including by allowing opposition parties to freely participate (Canada);**

127.81 **Create an environment conducive for free, fair and peaceful elections and ensure the personal safety and equal treatment of all candidates and voters throughout the electoral process in the upcoming presidential elections and beyond (Czech Republic);**

127.82 **Take measures aimed at ensuring transparency, justice and non-repression in the presidential election process of 2015, including by inviting international observers (Mexico);**

127.83 **Continue promoting women's rights in order to encourage their participation in decision-making processes (Nicaragua);**

127.84 **Continue plans to increase employment in the country, especially for its vulnerable groups (Brunei Darussalam);**

127.85 **Continue to take effective measures ensuring the realization of the right to work for its citizens including through national programmes to promote decent work and full and productive employment especially for women and young people (Egypt);**

127.86 **Follow up on the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the elimination of all forms of forced labour (Luxembourg);**

127.87 **Continue the practice of implementing programmes aimed at further improving the welfare of the population (Turkmenistan);**

127.88 **Continue consolidating its excellent social protection system for the benefit of its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.89 **Based on the level of economic and social development, further improve social security of the vulnerable groups including the elderly, women, children and persons with disabilities (China);**

127.90 **Continue implementing economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights for the benefit of all its population (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.91 **Continue to eradicate poverty and improve in particular the standard of living of rural populations (China);**

127.92 **Continue its efforts to eliminate poverty, paying particular attention to the situation of children, single parents and the rural population (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

127.93 **Take measures aimed at guaranteeing targeted support for persons living under the poverty line, paying particular attention to the situation of children, single-parent families and the rural population (Luxembourg);**

127.94 **Take further steps to raise the living standards of the people in the rural areas (Myanmar);**

127.95 **Strengthen promotion of healthy lifestyles of adolescents and prevention of harmful habits (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

127.96 **Continue the result-orientated policy in the field of the fight against infectious diseases, primarily tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS (Cuba);**

127.97 **Improve the health situation of all children irrespective of status (Bangladesh);**

127.98 **Continue the efforts to improve reproductive health, through the introduction of new and up-to-date technologies (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.99 **Continue implementing access for all women to reproductive health services and improving the quality of care given (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.100 **Continue its national plans and programmes to improve the quality of education (Syrian Arab Republic);**

127.101 **Continue its initiatives in ensuring the provision of quality education for all its people (Brunei Darussalam);**

127.102 **Continue to further improve the quality of school education for children (Pakistan);**

127.103 **Increase the availability of preschool facilities in rural areas (Bangladesh);**

127.104 **Continue efforts in expanding educational facilities to rural areas and advance the educational and vocational training facilities for men and women equally (Sri Lanka);**

127.105 **Increase the availability of preschool facilities in rural areas and ensure that members of the Roma community are not discriminated against and that they have equal access to education (State of Palestine);**

127.106 **Take the necessary measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Bahrain);**

127.107 **Continue its measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

127.108 **Take appropriate legislative measures towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and towards improvement of living conditions, employment opportunities and access of persons with disabilities (Japan);**

127.109 **Take appropriate legislative and regulatory measures to fight against discrimination and strengthen the protection and integration of persons with disabilities (Senegal);**

127.110 **Raise public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities (Sudan);**

127.111 **Move forward to make necessary arrangements for the adoption of a comprehensive national policy on persons with disabilities (Uganda);**

127.112 **Implement policies which guarantee better protection for asylum seekers and refugees (Sierra Leone);**

127.113 **Continue to be on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (Ethiopia).**

128. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Belarus which considers that they are already implemented:**

128.1 **Step up its efforts to combat and prevent discrimination faced by persons belonging to Roma communities, including ensuring the right to education on a non-discriminatory basis for all Roma children (Finland);**

128.2 **Reform the judiciary so it can operate free from direct influence, oversight, pressure or interference of the executive branch of the Government (Czech Republic).**

129. **The following recommendations will be examined by Belarus, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2015:**

129.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

129.2 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Congo);**

129.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**

129.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the main international instruments in the field of human rights to which it is not yet a party (Argentina);**

129.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and conduct an in-depth independent investigation into the disappearances of public figures that occurred in 1999 and 2000 with a view to bringing the authors of those crimes to justice (France);**

129.6 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Paraguay);**

129.7 **Consider expediting the ratification of the core human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Republic of Korea);**

129.8 **Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Ghana);**

129.9 **Enact a law on comprehensive protection of the rights of the child and of adolescents, which guarantees greater stability in the promotion and protection of these rights (El Salvador);**

129.10 **Set up an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**

129.11 **Set up an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);**

129.12 **Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Guatemala);**

129.13 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Namibia);**

129.14 **Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);**

129.15 **Establish an effective and independent national human rights institution in 2015 (Australia);**

129.16 **Put in place a national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**

129.17 **Promote the completion of the existing initiative to establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Peru);**

129.18 **Provide the legal framework for the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and in consultation with civil society (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

129.19 **Positively consider the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

129.20 **Do more in providing the enabling environment for the institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and by particularly establishing a national human rights commission (Nigeria);**

129.21 **Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and allow visits by special procedures mandate holders (Costa Rica);**

129.22 **Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly the special procedures mandate holders (El Salvador);**

129.23 **Issue an invitation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights so that he carries out a technical mission in Belarus, pursuant to resolution 17/24 (Peru);**

129.24 **Adopt specific and comprehensive legislation against direct and indirect discrimination, as well as on harassment based on sexual orientation (Uruguay);**

129.25 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law which would prohibit discrimination on any ground and establish mechanisms to ensure the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and legal remedies in cases of discrimination (Slovakia);**

129.26 **Enact comprehensive legislation against discrimination to avoid any kind of discrimination on the grounds of religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, political conviction or physical or mental disability (Chile);**

129.27 **Make further efforts toward adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, concerning, in particular, institutive actions to tackle the issue of violence against women (Serbia);**

129.28 **Ensure that respect for the principal of non-discrimination on the basis of gender includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and adopt specific anti-discrimination legislation for this group (Spain);**

129.29 **Do everything necessary to revitalize the discussions within the parliamentary working group on the death penalty and ensure that the minimum standards are applied pending an eventual moratorium (Belgium);**

129.30 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Ecuador);**

129.31 **Declare a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its final abolition (Uruguay);**

129.32 **Abolish capital punishment, and as an interim measure, introduce a moratorium on the death penalty (Sweden);**

129.33 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Rwanda);**

129.34 **Declare a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and, to that end, support the work of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty, particularly with a view to amending the Criminal Code and to adhering to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Brazil);**

129.35 **Introduce an immediate moratorium on the death penalty aimed at its permanent abolition and implement the Committee against Torture recommendations on arbitrary and secret executions (Costa Rica);**

129.36 **Establish as quickly as possible a moratorium on executions with a view to a definitive abolition of the death penalty, and ensure respect for the fundamental rights of those persons convicted and their families (France);**

129.37 **Consider the introduction of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in the national criminal system (Guatemala);**

129.38 **Consider introducing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Holy See);**

129.39 **Take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty, including the imposition of an immediate moratorium on its use (Ireland);**

129.40 **Advance the work of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty and introduce an immediate moratorium (Lithuania);**

129.41 **Establish an immediate official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Montenegro);**

129.42 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Norway);**

129.43 **In accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolution, establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards global abolition (Netherlands);**

129.44 **Establish a de facto moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

129.45 **Place a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to eradicating it (Sierra Leone);**

129.46 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its abolition (Spain);**

129.47 **Introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

129.48 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);**

129.49 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**

129.50 **Introduce amendments to the code on the penitentiaries to guarantee that the families of condemned persons have the opportunity to say goodbye and bury the corpses in accordance with international standards (Spain);**

129.51 **Reform the judiciary to ensure its independence and respect of international norms such as the respect of the right of the defence and the right to a fair trial. Review regulations on the appointment, dismissal and disciplinary procedures against judges as well as the length of their mandates (France);**

129.52 **Strengthen further the impartiality and independence of the judiciary by implementing the recent decrees on judicial procedures and by promptly and thoroughly investigating any allegation or complaint of ill-treatment in national detention facilities (Holy See);**

129.53 **Take all the necessary legislative and other measures in order to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary in line with the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary (endorsed by General Assembly resolutions), including by establishing an independent body responsible for the appointment, promotion, suspension and removal of judges (Poland);**

129.54 **Ensure the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by devolving all the functions in terms of the appointment, suspension and removal of judges, from the executive bodies to the judges' self-government bodies (Slovakia);**

129.55 **Ensure that no restrictions are imposed on the right to freedom of religion and belief, and guarantee greater respect for the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association (Holy See);**

129.56 **Amend its legislation to guarantee that freedom of expression on the Internet cannot be limited by the arbitrary decision of authorities (Sweden);**

129.57 **Bring its law on mass media in line with international standards on press freedom and ensure that civil society and human rights defenders can peacefully and without fear of arbitrary arrest exercise their right to freedom of expression, assembly and association, in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**

129.58 **Amend the law on mass media to ensure it does not unduly restrict freedom of expression, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (Norway);**

129.59 **Bring the legislative framework in line with the recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in order to ensure that it does not restrict freedom of expression and pluralism of media (Poland);**

129.60 **Better guarantee freedom of the press and freedom of expression, as well as the right to plural information (Senegal);**

129.61 **Ensure that human rights defenders are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association (Slovenia);**

129.62 **Take measures to guarantee freedom of expression as well as to respect peaceful protests (Costa Rica);**

129.63 **Ensure conditions for the opposition and human rights activists to freely work and express their views without fear of unsubstantiated prosecution (Croatia);**

129.64 **Amend the law on public association and mass gathering as well as media legislation to comply with international standards, including by decriminalizing defamation (Estonia);**

129.65 **Remove all obstacles to freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly and the press, ensuring that journalists and civil society can carry out their activities freely and safely; put an end to the harassment of journalists and remove the accreditation requirement for journalists (France);**

129.66 **Simplify the registration procedure for political parties and other public associations and foundations (Germany);**

129.67 **Promptly and effectively investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and acts of intimidation, reprisals and threats against human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);**

129.68 **Enhance efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and association, and reform the existing legislation on freedom of information in accordance with international standards (Italy);**

129.69 **Fully guarantee freedom of expression and refrain from arbitrary arrest of journalists (Romania);**

129.70 **Implement its commitment to guarantee freedom of association and expression (Australia);**

129.71 **Guarantee freedoms of assembly and association and repeal article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes civil activity of non-registered organizations, and the Law on Mass Events (United States of America);**

129.72 **Facilitate the registration of NGOs and decriminalize the organization and participation in activities of unregistered associations by repealing article 193-1 of the Criminal Code (Czech Republic);**

129.73 **Urgently abolish article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes activities by non-registered organizations and generally end the pattern of obstruction, harassment and intimidation of civil society organizations promoting and defending human rights, including trade unions, environmental groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex groups and human rights groups (Denmark);**

129.74 **Initiate legislation to repeal article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which imposes criminal penalties for participation in unregistered organizations (Lithuania);**

129.75 **Promote and uphold the freedom of the media and the right to freedom of expression and ensure that legislation and practice are brought in line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as conducting impartial investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation and bringing perpetrators to justice (Austria);**

129.76 **Take measures aimed at preventing threats and intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders, as well as against opponents of the Government (Uruguay);**

129.77 **Cease the intimidation, harassment and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders, NGO groups, and journalists and provide guarantees for the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as ending its restrictions and surveillance of the Internet, namely by amending its legislation**

in order to remove extrajudicial procedures for blocking websites, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, whose visit authorized by the Belarusian authorities in 2013 was a step in the right direction (Greece);

129.78 Comply with all the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, ensuring that those who engage in human rights work are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and movement without obstruction (Hungary);

129.79 Ensure the safety of human rights defenders and journalists, as well as their human rights, particularly freedom of expression and the press; and undertake swift and transparent investigation in response to the reports of intimidation, reprisal, threats and violence (Japan);

129.80 Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, and can participate fully in democratic processes (Ireland);

129.81 Protect the right to freedom of assembly and association of human rights defenders, in particular those campaigning against discrimination based on sexual orientation (Canada);

129.82 Revise the "Law on public associations" in order to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of association in conformity with international rights and standards (Luxembourg);

129.83 Abolish criminal responsibility for organization and participation in the activities of non-registered organizations, as well as lifting the ban on the activities of non-registered organizations (Poland);

129.84 Adapt its own domestic legislation on associations in order to remove any hindrances to the full realization of the freedom of association by its citizens (Romania);

129.85 Abandon the practice of arbitrary detention of journalists and decriminalize defamation (Lithuania);

129.86 Decriminalize the activities of non-registered NGOs and put an end to all forms of administrative or judicial harassment towards independent civil society actors (Switzerland);

129.87 Significantly simplify the procedures for the registration of civil society associations, organizations and foundations and ensure that the legal and political framework is in line with international standards (Belgium);

129.88 Remove restrictions on civil society, including the prohibition on NGOs receiving foreign funds, restrictions on volunteer work outside business hours, and obstacles to official registration of NGOs, in line with the rights to freedom of association and of expression (Canada);

129.89 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities, and take appropriate measures to bring perpetrators to justice (Botswana);

129.90 Ensure that peaceful demonstrators are not imprisoned, harassed or ill-treated by police for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been detained solely for exercising these rights (Denmark);

129.91 **Take measures to align the legislation on mass events with international standards in order to protect freedom of association, including through the elimination of the requirement to request a licence prior to the organization of assemblies and public demonstrations (Mexico);**

129.92 **Amend the Law on Mass Events in order to enable the right to peaceful assembly to be exercised more easily (Croatia);**

129.93 **Bring the mass event legislation into line with the international standards on freedom of assembly, including by abolishing the licensing principle of the conduct of events and by abolishing the requirement for the applicants to pay for maintenance of public order and for providing medical service as an indispensable condition for carrying out the event (Germany);**

129.94 **Amend its electoral laws to bring them in line with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights recommendations for electoral reform to demonstrate respect for democratic political processes, freedom of association, and freedom of expression ahead of the 2015 presidential election (United States of America);**

129.95 **Bring the electoral system in line with its OSCE commitments and principles for democratic elections, in close cooperation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Austria);**

129.96 **Take measures to improve working conditions in line with recommendations issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including through the abolition of any kind of forced labour, elimination of fines for labour inactivity, and the abandonment of the widespread use of short-term working contracts (Mexico).**

130. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Belarus and would thus be noted:**

130.1 **Consider ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and introduce a de facto moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty with the view to total abolishment (Namibia);**

130.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);**

130.3 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Sweden);**

130.4 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**

130.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as well as Protocols No. 6 and No. 13 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, with the aim of abolishing the death penalty (Finland);**

130.6 **Establish without delay a moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg);**

130.7 **Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step to abolition; produce a national plan to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; and immediately change the process of carrying out executions by notifying the family of the date of execution and burial site (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

130.8 **Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a short-term objective and consider the full abolition of the death penalty and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Austria);**

130.9 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, create a national preventive mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol and acknowledge the competence of the Committee against Torture to consider allegations of breach of obligations under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention (Germany);**

130.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

130.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (El Salvador);**

130.12 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**

130.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt into the inquiry and inter-State mechanisms (Greece);**

130.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Uruguay) (Denmark) (Ghana);**

130.15 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Congo);**

130.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and bring detention conditions in places of deprivation of liberty in line with international standards (Greece);**

130.17 **Take effective legislative, administrative and other measures to prevent, investigate and punish acts of torture or ill-treatment and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Portugal);**

130.18 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica) (Ghana);**

130.19 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

130.20 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities (Botswana);**

130.21 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it into national law (Italy);**

130.22 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it in the national legislation, including by incorporating provisions on prompt and full cooperation with the Court (Hungary);**

130.23 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

130.24 **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Montenegro);**

130.25 **Grant unfettered access to Belarus for international human rights monitors (Austria);**

130.26 **Increase cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies, including issuing a standing invitation, and permit the SR on the situation of human rights in Belarus to visit the country (Lithuania);**

130.27 **Cooperate with United Nations follow-up mechanisms, notably by issuing a standing invitation to all the special procedures, and accepting all their visits, in particular that of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (France);**

130.28 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures (Ghana);**

130.29 **Issue an open invitation to the United Nations special procedures (Guatemala);**

130.30 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Peru);**

130.31 **Put forward extensive efforts to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly by issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures and recognizing the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Republic of Korea);**

130.32 **Take appropriate measures to consider and implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Latvia);**

130.33 **Cooperate with the United Nations mechanisms including with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Romania);**

130.34 **Cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and heed his recommendations (Slovenia);**

130.35 **Invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus to visit the country to demonstrate the Government's commitment to respecting human rights (United States of America);**

130.36 **Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and issue a standing invitation to special procedures or, if this is not agreeable, accept the special rapporteurs who have requested a visit (Belgium);**

130.37 **Take appropriate measures to grant unfettered access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus as well as respond**

positively to pending visit requests of other special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and eventually consider extending a standing invitation (Latvia);

130.38 Grant unfettered access to Belarus for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and other special procedures mandate holders, comply with the recommendations of the Rapporteur's reports without delay and resume cooperation with all international organizations (Norway);

130.39 Release immediately all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Lithuania);

130.40 Proceed to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners (Luxembourg);

130.41 Immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and assembly (Estonia);

130.42 Immediately release the remaining political prisoners (Slovenia);

130.43 End the detention of political activists and release all political prisoners without delay (Australia);

130.44 Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Poland);

130.45 Review the cases of detention of individuals found to be deprived of their liberty for reasons which might be associated with the peaceful exercise of human rights and freedoms (Brazil);

130.46 Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners, members of the opposition, human rights defenders and activists, ensure their full rehabilitation, and lift travel and other restrictions imposed on political prisoners who have been pardoned (Norway);

130.47 Immediately release its remaining political prisoners, investigate reports of mistreatment and take action against those allegedly responsible in accordance with domestic and international law (Canada);

130.48 Take concrete steps to eliminate arbitrary detention as a form of persecution of political and civic dissent and release and fully rehabilitate all those sentenced directly or indirectly for their political and civic activities (Czech Republic).

131. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

# Annex

*[English only]*

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Belarus was headed by Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Mikhail Khvostov – Ambassador, Permanent Representative in Geneva
- Ms. Alena Bohdan – Head of Main Department of the Organization of Medical Assistance, Ministry of Health
- Ms. Inna Vasilevskaya – Counsellor, Permanent Mission in Geneva
- Ms. Irina Velichko – Deputy Head, Department of Global Policy and Humanitarian Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Aliaksandr Dranitsa – Adviser to the Prosecutor General
- Mr. Valery Kalinkovich – First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court
- Mr. Uladzislau Mandryk – Deputy Head, Department for the Execution of Judgments, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ms. Valentina Maslovskaya – Head, Legal Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
- Ms. Viktoria Meleshko – Head, Legal and Personnel Management Department, Ministry of Information
- Mr. Raman Melnik – Head, Main Department of Law Enforcement, Public Safety Police and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ms. Anna Shpak – Head, Main Rule-Making Department in the Sphere of State Capacity-Building, Ministry of Justice

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**Thirtieth session**
Agenda item 6
**Universal Periodic Review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# Belarus

**Addendum**

## Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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## Position of Belarus with regard to the recommendations

### Recommendations which have been accepted

The following recommendations enjoy the support of Belarus: 129.4, 129.6, 129.20-129.22, 129.27, 129.29, 129.30, 129.33, 129.37, 129.38, 129.52, 129.55, 129.60-129.63, 129.67, 129.69, 129.70, 129.75, 129.78-129.80, 129.89 and 129.95.

### Recommendations which have been accepted in part

The following recommendations enjoy the support in part of Belarus: 129.5, 129.7, 129.24, 129.72, 129.81 and 129.90.

### Recommendations which are not supported, but of which note has been taken

Belarus takes note of the following recommendations: 129.1-129.3, 129.8, 129.10-129.19, 129.28, 129.31, 129.32, 129.34-129.36, 129.39-129.49, 129.50, 129.54, 129.56-129.59, 129.64, 129.65, 129.68, 129.71, 129.73, 129.74, 129.76, 129.77, 129.83, 129.85, 129.86, 129.88, 129.91-129.93 and 129.96.

### Accepted recommendations which have been implemented

Belarus considers that the following recommendations have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented: 129.9, 129.23, 129.25, 129.26, 129.51, 129.53, 129.66, 129.82, 129.84, 129.87 and 129.94.

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# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# Liberia

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Liberia was held at the 2nd meeting, on 4 May 2015. The delegation of Liberia was headed by the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Julia M. Duncan-Cassell. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 May 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Liberia.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Liberia: Gabon, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Liberia:

(a) A national report (A/HRC/WG.6/22/LBR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/LBR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/22/LBR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Liberia through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group.

# I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

## A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Liberia welcomed the opportunity to interact with other member States and to discuss how Liberia may continue to move forward in the implementation of human rights standards. It added that Liberia found this dialogue extremely helpful in identifying key areas for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

6. The delegation stated that Liberia had made a number of notable achievements since its first universal periodic review, four years earlier. In 2011, the country had held its second peaceful presidential and legislative elections since the end of the civil war in 2003.

7. The delegation noted that the Government had developed a national security strategy in light of the anticipated drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia. Enhancing human rights compliance within the security sector was an integral part of that strategy. Ensuring access to justice was also a key component, provided for through the progressive establishment of regional hubs for justice and security, which would enhance service delivery, particularly outside Monrovia, the capital city.

8. The delegation mentioned that Liberia had also implemented a number of policies to strengthen the rule of law and foster the protection of human rights. These included the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, which contained recommendations made by the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the Agenda for Transformation, which prioritized the development of the justice sector and addressed cross-cutting issues impacting on human rights and vulnerable groups; and the

National Human Rights Action Plan, which provided for the implementation of the country's regional and international human rights obligations and of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review.

9. With regard to the ratification of human rights instruments, the delegation noted that in 2012 Liberia had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in 2014 it had ratified the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, the Kampala Convention and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

10. The delegation stated that Liberia was taking steps to address its backlog in treaty reporting, and was currently in good standing with regard to reports due under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It added that the common core document was in the process of finalization. The Government had also developed a national strategy on meeting treaty obligations, including treaty reporting, to address the matter of other outstanding reports. Moreover, the delegation emphasized that the process of issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council had begun.

11. The delegation explained that the independent national human rights institution had trained a number of human rights monitors, and had begun implementation of the Palava Hut Programme, a critical initiative in the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation.

12. However, the delegation recognized that many challenges lay ahead in the implementation of human rights. As a fragile society, Liberia faced additional challenges as it strived to meet the needs of its citizens. Most recently, the outbreak of Ebola had posed the most serious threat to national stability since the end of the 14-year civil war. The delegation noted that the impacts of Ebola had been widespread, hitting the economy and the health-care infrastructure particularly hard. It added that Liberia was only a few days away from being declared Ebola-free, and was cautiously optimistic that the worst had passed.

13. The delegation stated that, as Liberia was beginning to emerge from one of its greatest crises in recent memory, it looked forward to engaging with renewed vigour in the process of enhancing human rights protection. It concluded by saying that Liberia looked forward to the continued support of the international community as it strived to implement its human rights obligations.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

14. During the interactive dialogue, 76 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

15. Zimbabwe commended Liberia on the public awareness and educational campaigns carried out to improve women's access to justice. It noted that Liberia had established human rights units within the armed forces and the national police to integrate human rights education and awareness into the security sector. Zimbabwe made recommendations.

16. Algeria welcomed the institutional and normative reforms undertaken by Liberia, such as the overall development strategy, the strategy of consolidation of peace and reconciliation, the establishment of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the creation of a unit to tackle sexual and gender-based violence. Algeria made recommendations.

17. Angola commended Liberia on the legislative policy measures taken since its last review, particularly regarding the protection of persons with disabilities, the protection of

the rights of the child and the fight against human trafficking. It also welcomed the launching of the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation and the successful developments in the justice system. Angola made recommendations.

18. Argentina paid tribute to the efforts made to improve living standards, which had been worsened by the Ebola crisis. It was interested in the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, and particularly in the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. Argentina made recommendations.

19. Australia commended Liberia on its transition from civil war to peace and on its successful elections held in 2011. It remained concerned that despite the country's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, its Constitution had not abolished the practice. Australia also remained concerned by reports of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children. It made recommendations.

20. Benin congratulated Liberia on the efforts that it had made to ratify several human rights instruments. It reiterated its solidarity with the Liberian authorities for their efforts to overcome the health crisis caused by the Ebola epidemic. Benin made recommendations.

21. Botswana appreciated the adoption of the Children's Law and the process of harmonizing domestic legislation with international obligations. However, it remained concerned by the high level of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as by reports of high rates of maternal and infant mortality, particularly in rural areas. Botswana made recommendations.

22. Brazil congratulated Liberia on holding its second peaceful presidential and legislative elections since 2003. It commended Liberia on its fight against Ebola and reiterated its support in that endeavour. Brazil made recommendations.

23. Burkina Faso welcomed the measures taken by Liberia since the first review. It deplored the persistence of female genital mutilations and encouraged Liberia to take energetic measures to put an end to them.

24. Canada commended Liberia on its fight against Ebola. It urged Liberia to continue its efforts to promote equality between men and women, and its fight against violence against women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation. Canada made recommendations.

25. Chad stated that Liberia had made significant progress since its first review, but that unfortunately, difficulties due to the Ebola epidemic had curbed that progress. Chad congratulated Liberia on its establishment of institutions in the field of human rights and on its ratification of international and regional human rights instruments. Chad made recommendations.

26. China was concerned about the serious human rights and humanitarian impact caused by the outbreak of Ebola and commended Liberia on the efforts that it had made in that context. It called upon the international community to provide Liberia with constructive assistance. China made recommendations.

27. Colombia welcomed the commitment by Liberia to the human rights sector and the efforts made to implement recommendations of the first review. It welcomed the establishment of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan. Colombia made recommendations.

28. The Congo appreciated Liberia's commitment to putting recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into practice by making the National Human Rights

Commission truly independent and improving access to justice throughout the country. The Congo made recommendations.

29. Costa Rica congratulated Liberia on the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation for 2012–2030 and on the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It was concerned at the allegations of arbitrary detention of human rights defenders. Costa Rica made recommendations.

30. Côte d'Ivoire thanked Liberia for its report, which summarized not only measures taken to follow up on recommendations accepted during the first review but also challenges connected to their effective implementation. Côte d'Ivoire noted the progress under way in various areas and recognized challenges that Liberia still had to face. Côte d'Ivoire made recommendations.

31. Cuba noted that 53 Cuban health-care volunteers had been among the first to respond to the call by the United Nations to tackle the Ebola epidemic. Cuba called upon the international community to provide Liberia with financial assistance for the strengthening of its health-care infrastructure. Cuba made recommendations.

32. The Czech Republic made recommendations.

33. The Democratic Republic of the Congo commended Liberia for the efforts to fulfil its commitments despite the serious challenges that it had had to face. It mentioned a number of achievements that Liberia had made since its first review in 2010, as well as a considerable number of obstacles that the country was yet to overcome. The Democratic Republic of the Congo made a recommendation.

34. Djibouti commended Liberia on the methodology crafted for implementing the recommendations from the first cycle. Djibouti called on the international community to support Liberia's efforts to mitigate the negative impact of Ebola on its development and to help the country monitor the implications of Ebola for human rights. Djibouti made a recommendation.

35. Egypt welcomed the launching of the long-term comprehensive strategy for development, the National Human Rights Action Plan of 2013, and the enactment of the Children's Law in 2012. It encouraged Liberia to pursue its policies aimed at combating gender-based violence and violence against street children. Egypt made recommendations.

36. Equatorial Guinea stressed that for over 10 years, a climate of reconciliation and consolidation of peace had been evident. Despite the recent health crisis due to the Ebola epidemic, Liberia had taken a number of measures that had shown its attachment to the promotion and protection of human rights. Equatorial Guinea made recommendations.

37. Estonia encouraged Liberia to continue its efforts to become a party to all the main international human rights instruments. Estonia urged Liberia to enforce domestic laws that protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation and to investigate all such cases effectively. Estonia made recommendations.

38. Morocco endorsed the efforts that Liberia had made towards bringing about stability. It welcomed the "Liberia Rising 2030" strategy for reconciliation and peace, the establishment of human rights institutions, the five-year plan to combat trafficking in persons, the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. Morocco made recommendations.

39. Finland noted Liberia's development with regard to maintaining peace and stability. It raised concerns about access to justice. It took positive note of Liberia's initiatives to address violence against women and encouraged Liberia to end violence against women. Finland made recommendations.

40. France welcomed the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the efforts to ensure freedom to hold peaceful demonstrations. It enquired about the measures that Liberia envisaged for remedying the consequences of the Ebola epidemic on human rights. France made recommendations.

41. Gabon welcomed the progress that Liberia had made in strengthening the rule of law and its efforts to guarantee civil, political, social and cultural rights, which had included significant legal and administrative reform and the establishment of human rights institutions. Gabon urged Liberia to intensify its efforts to promote and protect human rights.

42. Germany welcomed Liberia's efforts to improve the human rights situation, particularly via the establishment of human rights institutions, the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Freedom of Information Act. Germany commended Liberia on its fight against Ebola. Germany made recommendations.

43. Ghana applauded Liberia for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It welcomed the establishment of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and called on the international community to support Liberia to ensure that the Commission operated at full capacity. Ghana made recommendations.

44. Indonesia noted that Liberia had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that ratification of other international human rights instruments was under way. It commended the legislative measures for protecting and promoting the rights of the child. Indonesia made recommendations.

45. Iraq appreciated the implementation of the 2012 long-term, comprehensive strategy for development. It appreciated the building of national reconciliation and the launching in 2013 of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It welcomed the intention to issue a standing invitation to the special procedures to visit Liberia. Iraq made recommendations.

46. Ireland commended the efforts that Liberia had made in tackling the Ebola virus. It expressed concern regarding prolonged pretrial detention and poor detention conditions, sexual and gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and intimidation and violence on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Ireland made recommendations.

47. Italy commended Liberia on its response to the Ebola outbreak and on its progress in promoting and protecting human rights. Italy welcomed the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, and the position taken on harmful traditional practices and the involvement of traditional leaders in this. Italy made recommendations.

48. Japan encouraged Liberia to ensure the domestic implementation of international human rights instruments and to report to treaty bodies. It was concerned at corruption in law enforcement and at trial delays. It expected the ongoing debate on freedom of the press to continue in a democratic manner. Japan made recommendations.

49. Kenya noted the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation and the establishment of human rights institutions. It urged Liberia to implement the provisions of international and regional conventions and welcomed the harmonization of legislation on the rights of the child. Kenya made a recommendation.

50. Latvia was concerned about the reportedly high number of rape cases, particularly against young victims, and about gender-based violence. It conveyed its sympathies to the Government and people of Liberia with regard to the Ebola epidemic. Latvia made recommendations.

51. Libya appreciated the progress that Liberia had made in implementing the recommendations from the first cycle and particularly in amending its national legislation

to bring it into line with its international obligations. Libya also appreciated the building of national reconciliation and the launching in 2013 of the National Human Rights Action Plan. Libya made a recommendation.

52. Madagascar welcomed the implementation of a long-term, wide-ranging development strategy and the adoption of the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. It recognized the efforts to strengthen institutions and improve laws and the progress made in the areas of socioeconomic and cultural rights. It encouraged Liberia to meet its human rights commitments. Madagascar made recommendations.

53. Mali paid tribute to Liberia's commitment to the universal periodic review process. It noted Liberia's progress, which had included the consolidation of democratic procedures, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the National Plan of Action for Human Rights. Mali made a recommendation.

54. The delegation of Liberia explained that a larger delegation, headed by the Minister of Justice, was to have come to the present session of the Working Group, but because of the circumstances that Liberia faced in terms of flight and visa arrangements, several delegates were unable to be present. Nevertheless, the delegation stated that the recommendations and all of the concerns from Member States would be taken into consideration.

55. The delegation also said that the Government was continuing to work to ensure that laws were formulated to address gender-based violence and harmful practices against women. It added that a law making rape a non-bailable crime had been enacted and that a special court had been established for trials relating to rape and crimes of sexual and gender-based violence. Notwithstanding, despite all the efforts, violence against women and girls continued to increase in the country at an unexpected rate.

56. Mentioning that Liberia was going through a constitutional review process, the delegation expressed the hope that some of the recommendations made by the other countries' delegations could be addressed during the process of reviewing the Constitution. The delegation added that women should have equal access to economic and social empowerment, employment and education, that the Constitution should guarantee the inheritance rights of all women, and that the law should protect women from all forms of violence, including female genital mutilation. The delegation reiterated that discriminatory laws would be reviewed in the ongoing constitutional process.

57. Regarding the reform of the justice system, the delegation stated that Liberia had made progress and was committed to enhancing the system and strengthening access to justice, particularly via the establishment of the regional hubs for justice and security. As mentioned earlier, the delegation stated that the standing invitation to the special procedures was being prepared and should be issued very soon.

58. With regard to Ebola, the delegation said that the Government had developed an economic stabilization and recovery plan that addressed all the relevant issues, in particular the health-care infrastructure, education, and social protection and welfare. It hoped that the plan could be shared with the Member States that had concerns about the post-Ebola period.

59. Mauritania paid tribute to Liberia's promotion and protection of human rights despite the difficulties faced. It welcomed Liberia's cooperation with the special procedures, and the fight against harmful traditional practices, urging Liberia to eradicate these. Mauritania made a recommendation.

60. Mexico appreciated the development of the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, and the policy on consolidating peace and national reconciliation. It welcomed the inclusion in Liberia's development agenda of a segment on

social issues relating to human rights, vulnerable groups and inequality. Mexico made recommendations.

61. Montenegro commended Liberia's dealing with Ebola, and underlined the importance of reducing inequalities in health-care services. It welcomed the institutional and strategic framework for human rights and the Children's Law. It expressed concern regarding sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and female genital mutilation, enquiring about how successfully Liberia had addressed this. Montenegro made recommendations.

62. Ethiopia commended Liberia on its launching of a strategy for development, on its establishment of national human rights institutions and on the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. Ethiopia encouraged Liberia to further strengthen efforts to tackle poverty. Ethiopia made recommendations.

63. Namibia noted Liberia's efforts to recover from the effects of civil war and from the Ebola outbreak. It expressed its congratulations for "Liberia Rising 2030", the Agenda for Transformation, and the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. Namibia made recommendations.

64. Nepal noted measures taken since the first review to implement the pledges and recommendations, describing Liberia's achievements, in spite of the challenges, as impressive. It listed the steps taken towards strengthening Liberia's human rights regime. Nepal made recommendations.

65. The Netherlands commended the handling of the Ebola outbreak, and counted on Liberia to ensure that survivors could peacefully return to their villages. It noted the efforts made to strengthen women's rights and to end violence against women. It remained concerned about the limited space for civil society. The Netherlands made recommendations.

66. The Niger noted the efforts made to follow up on the recommendations from the first review, despite a difficult context. It congratulated Liberia on strengthening the framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, urging it to continue those efforts and to strengthen the capacities of the judiciary.

67. Nigeria commended Liberia on establishing the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the Independent Information Commission. It noted Liberia's continued engagement with the universal periodic review process. Nigeria called on OHCHR to continue to engage with Liberia for the strengthening of institutions.

68. Norway commended the efforts made in combating the Ebola outbreak, acknowledging that the crisis had delayed political processes. It noted the challenge of a weak justice and security sector and supported the plan for a national takeover of responsibility for security from the United Nations Mission in Liberia, but was concerned about national capacity. Norway made recommendations.

69. The Philippines commended Liberia's National Human Rights Action Plan, as well as the steps taken towards ratifying international human rights treaties and harmonizing domestic laws with human rights obligations. It remained concerned about domestic violence, harmful traditional practices and trafficking. The Philippines made recommendations.

70. Poland welcomed the legislation on the protection of children. It was concerned about the insufficient measures taken to eliminate violence against children, the reports of discrimination against and harassment of members of minorities and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists. Poland made recommendations.

71. Portugal welcomed the launching of the national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 and the establishment of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights. Portugal made recommendations.

72. The Republic of Korea highlighted the establishment of the Constitutional Review Committee. It noted efforts to reform the justice and security sectors and to improve prison conditions. The Republic of Korea made recommendations.

73. Rwanda commended Liberia on holding peaceful elections, on the launching of the "Liberia Rising 2030" national strategy, and on its efforts to address the Ebola epidemic. Rwanda urged the international community to provide Liberia with support to address challenges facing the country. Rwanda made recommendations.

74. Senegal welcomed the efforts of Liberia to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan, to establish the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and to combat sexual and domestic violence, as well as its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Senegal made recommendations.

75. Sierra Leone commended Liberia on its efforts to address the human rights situation. Sierra Leone noted Liberia's commitment to implementing it. human rights obligations but at the same time noted the lack of resources for this task and stressed the need for technical assistance to be provided to Liberia. Sierra Leone made recommendations.

76. Singapore noted the implementation of the Agenda for Transformation and the National Human Rights Action Plan and observed that Liberia had strengthened its policies and legislation to combat sexual and gender-based violence. However, the incidence of such violence remained high. Singapore made recommendations.

77. Slovakia encouraged Liberia to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It commended the new National Human Rights Action Plan and national human rights institutions. Slovakia highlighted the need to address challenges, which included violence against women and the protection of human rights defenders, as well as challenges in the judiciary. Slovakia made recommendations.

78. Slovenia remained concerned about the reports of violations of the rights of the child, which included violence against children and the sexual abuse of children, and about the high rate of sexual and gender-based violence. It made recommendations.

79. South Africa noted some achievements made in human rights despite the challenges that the country faced. South Africa called for providing Liberia with additional support so that it could address the Ebola epidemic. South Africa encouraged Liberia to continue all efforts towards the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights. South Africa made recommendations.

80. Spain recognized the efforts made by Liberia to manage the Ebola outbreak. It welcomed the moratorium on executions. It expressed concern about excessive use of preventive detention and about the lack of food and of proper hygiene in prisons. It made recommendations.

81. Sudan noted that despite the challenges that Liberia had faced in recent years, it had enjoyed a number of notable achievements, such as the launching of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It made recommendations.

82. Sweden noted that despite some measures by the Government, there remained a high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, and that female genital mutilation continued to be practised. It welcomed the de facto moratorium on executions. Sweden made recommendations.

83. While welcoming the ratification of several human rights instruments by Liberia, Switzerland noted that it had failed so far to transpose its international obligations to the national level. Switzerland made recommendations.

84. Thailand noted the National Human Rights Action Plan and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Thailand encouraged Liberia to review its legislation to ensure its conformity with international human rights obligations. Thailand was concerned by the lack of health-care services in rural areas and by regional disparities in health care. It was concerned about cases of sexual offences against children. It made recommendations.

85. Timor-Leste commended Liberia for the efforts made to promote the rights of women. However, it was concerned about cases of sexual violence against women. It made recommendations.

86. Togo welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations that had been accepted by Liberia, as well as the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It made recommendations.

87. Trinidad and Tobago noted the fast-growing economy of Liberia and the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty. It made recommendations.

88. Tunisia noted the progress made, inter alia, in implementing the wide-ranging development strategy and the National Human Rights Action Plan. Tunisia encouraged Liberia to include human rights in its new Constitution. Tunisia urged OHCHR to respond positively to the request by Liberia for technical assistance. It made recommendations.

89. Turkey commended Liberia for developing various human rights strategies and action plans in spite of the various challenges that the country faced. It encouraged the Government to take measures to protect and promote human rights. It made recommendations.

90. Uganda noted the achievements of Liberia in establishing the necessary framework for the protection and promotion of human rights in spite of many challenges. Uganda called upon the international community to support Liberia in building its capacity in various sectors, including the judiciary and the police. Uganda made recommendations.

91. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the Investment Plan for Building a Resilient Health System in Liberia, as a prevention plan. It urged Liberia to ensure that freedom of religion was protected in the constitutional review process. It made recommendations.

92. The United States of America commended Liberia for holding successful elections in the context of the high demands of combating the Ebola epidemic. It was concerned about pervasive gender-based violence against women, and that the worst forms of child labour were occurring in agriculture and mining. It made recommendations.

93. Uruguay welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted the adoption of a national strategy for its implementation as well as the inclusion of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in its legislation. It made recommendations.

94. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledged Liberia's efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations, which had included the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the improvement of its legislation. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela urged the international community to provide Liberia with the

necessary support for it to continue its efforts. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a recommendation.

95. Cabo Verde noted that, in Liberia, the weight of traditional practices was very heavy and represented a major constraint to the Government's will and action. It called on the international community to assist Liberia in the promotion of human rights. Cabo Verde made recommendations.

96. The delegation of Liberia welcomed the recommendations made during the review. Liberia had taken firm measures to adhere to the principles enshrined in international human rights instruments. While some improvement had been made in the areas of policy formulation and programmes to improve the promotion and protection of human rights, the delegation recognized that some actions still needed to be taken to address the issues raised during the present session of the Working Group. Those issues included the high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, especially child rape, the need to build investigative capacity in the law enforcement services and the judiciary, the high levels of pretrial detention, the need to review domestic legislation to bring it into line with Liberia's human rights obligations, and the need to address the backlog in treaty reporting.

97. The delegation stated that Liberia was committed to protecting the rights of Ebola survivors and orphans, and to improving the health-care system in the wake of the Ebola epidemic.

98. The delegation was pleased to inform States that human rights had been taken into consideration in the work of the Constitutional Review Committee, which was currently ongoing. As part of that process, issues of human rights had been addressed, including the right to equality and non-discrimination, the rights of women in marriage as well as special measures and provisions to guarantee their inheritance rights, protection of the rights of the child, protection against all forms of violence, the need for equal participation of men and women, and the need to use language that is inclusive of both genders.

99. In conclusion, the delegation expressed again Liberia's commitment to meeting its international human rights obligations. Liberia looked forward to working with the Human Rights Council and other international bodies as it continued to move forward with its implementation of human rights measures. The recommendations made by the delegations would be given due consideration by the Government of Liberia, including by the representatives who were not able to be present for the review, and would be incorporated into the National Human Rights Action Plan.

## II. Conclusions and recommendations[**]

100. **The following recommendations will be examined by Liberia, which will provide responses in due time but no later than the 30th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2015:**

100.1 **Become a party to the main human rights instruments (Chad);**

100.2 **Continue the ratification of international instruments to which the country is not yet a party, in particular those relating to human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**

100.3 **Finalize the ratification process of relevant international conventions to which the country is not yet a party (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

[**] The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

100.4 **Sign and ratify the regional and international instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Madagascar);**

100.5 **Step up its efforts towards the ratification of other human rights conventions, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

100.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal) (Sierra Leone);**

100.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);**

100.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Timor-Leste) (Tunisia) (Uruguay);**

100.9 **Ratify the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Iraq) (Portugal) (Uruguay);**

100.10 **Ratify the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Sudan);**

100.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Estonia) (Poland);**

100.12 **Ratify the three optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovakia);**

100.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, signed in 2004, and implement the necessary domestic measures for its implementation (Brazil);**

100.14 **Accelerate the ratification of the range of international human rights instruments accepted at the universal periodic review in 2010, particularly the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Cabo Verde);**

100.15 **Continue efforts to guarantee the rights of children, including the ratification and implementation of the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Liberia has signed (France);**

100.16 **Continue its efforts to take legislative measures for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, by expediting the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Indonesia);**

100.17 **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

100.18 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro) (Portugal) (Tunisia) (Sierra Leone);**

100.19 **Redouble efforts to ensure the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and**

**Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ghana);**

100.20 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**

100.21 **Continue its process towards the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

100.22 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mali) (Uruguay);**

100.23 **Amend its Constitution to abolish the death penalty (Australia);**

100.24 **Speed up its constitutional reforms to abolish the death penalty (Congo);**

100.25 **Abolish de jure the death penalty (Montenegro);**

100.26 **Abolish the death penalty it has reintroduced in law (Germany);**

100.27 **Conduct the constitutional reform necessary for the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**

100.28 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Rwanda);**

100.29 **Formally establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty as a step towards full abolition of it (Togo);**

100.30 **Continue the de facto moratorium on the death penalty and further take steps towards its legal abolition (Nepal);**

100.31 **Continue the moratorium on the death penalty and move towards its elimination (Costa Rica);**

100.32 **Full abolition of capital punishment in all cases and circumstances (Portugal);**

100.33 **Remove the paragraph prescribing the death penalty as legal punishment by law (Norway);**

100.34 **Consider the repeal of the law that allows for the death penalty and introduce a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to total abolishment in line with Liberia's obligations under the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**

100.35 **Review the national legislation to bring it into conformity with international human rights instruments, in particular with the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Switzerland);**

100.36 **Abolish the death penalty (Uruguay);**

100.37 **Abolish the death penalty in legislation in order to respect the obligations arising from the ratification of the second Optional Protocol by Liberia (France);**

100.38 **Fully abolish the death penalty, in accordance with the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);**

100.39 **Repeal legislation which allows for the death penalty, in line with Liberia's commitments under the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

100.40 **Analyse the possibility of abolishing the death penalty (Argentina);**

100.41 **Take steps toward the abolition of the death penalty (South Africa);**

100.42 **Abolish the death penalty and commute without delay all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Sweden);**

100.43 **Conclude the process of revision of its Constitution and national legislation so as to guarantee that they are compatible with regional and international human rights instruments to which the country is a State party (Mexico);**

100.44 **Ensure that the revision of the Constitution is firmly based on human rights and complies with international human rights standards (Czech Republic);**

100.45 **Strengthen its efforts to end discrimination against women by incorporating the principle of equality into the Constitution in the context of its constitutional review (Germany);**

100.46 **Incorporate the principle of equality between women and men into the Constitution, and seek to combat gender-based discrimination, in particular against girls in rural areas, especially as regards access to education and social services and their right to property and security (Egypt);**

100.47 **Provide the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women with information on the steps taken to incorporate a definition of discrimination against women in appropriate national legislation and on the incorporation of the principle of equality between men and women in the Constitution (Ghana);**

100.48 **Strengthen its efforts to combat sexual violence by adopting a legal framework to address violence against women and by incorporating the principle of equality between women and men into the Constitution (Timor-Leste);**

100.49 **Foster harmonization of its domestic legislation with its international obligations (Djibouti);**

100.50 **Bring its domestic legislation fully into line with international human rights instruments (Madagascar);**

100.51 **Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

100.52 **Bring domestic legislation into line to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica);**

100.53 **Undertake a comprehensive review of pertinent domestic legislation to ensure full conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Egypt);**

100.54 **Swiftly establish a national preventive mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ratified in 2004 and speed up**

**the process of incorporation of provisions of other ratified international human rights instruments into national legislation (Czech Republic);**

100.55 **Repeal all laws and policies that discriminate against human rights defenders (Australia);**

100.56 **Bring its legal and policy framework in line with its international obligations, including the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, by repealing all laws and policies that restrict the rights and activities of human rights defenders, including defamation and libel laws (Netherlands);**

100.57 **Accelerate the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act (Benin);**

100.58 **Put in place measures that ensure and protect the family as a natural nucleus of society and provide a family-friendly environment for the children in Liberia (Uganda);**

100.59 **Guarantee women the same right as men to transmit their nationality to their children, in particular by deleting Section 20.1 (b) of Part III of the "Law on Immigration and Nationality" (Switzerland);**

100.60 **Adopt a law that explicitly prohibits female genital mutilation (Uruguay);**

100.61 **Adopt laws to forbid harmful traditional practices (Madagascar);**

100.62 **Enact legislation and increase awareness-raising prohibiting female genital mutilation (Sweden);**

100.63 **Fast-track the enactment of its Domestic Violence Act, criminalize female genital mutilation, enforce laws that protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, and prosecute and punish complicit officials (Australia);**

100.64 **Build the capacity of existing institutions and sexual and gender-based violence units to monitor in particular violence against women — including sexual violence and female genital mutilation/cutting — in order to prevent violence, protect victims and fully gather evidence, investigate and prosecute these crimes (Finland);**

100.65 **Enhance efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women and domestic violence, including by adopting new legislation to this effect and ensuring its effective implementation (Italy);**

100.66 **Modify its legislation on nationality so as to guarantee equal rights for men and women with respect to the handing down of nationality to their children and spouses (Mexico);**

100.67 **Further empower its Special Court on Rape and Other Forms of Violence, enforce the laws against female genital mutilation and increase its efforts to create national public awareness programmes about sexual and gender-based violence (Netherlands);**

100.68 **Strengthen the units for the protection of women and children, granting these the necessary capacity to gather all evidence and investigate all cases of sexual and gender-based violence (Uruguay);**

100.69 **Improve the access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, enhance the capacity of the police to investigate cases of sexual and gender-based violence and enact the relevant legislation, including the Domestic Violence Act (Slovenia);**

100.70 **Strengthen its enforcement of domestic laws that protect children from sexual abuses and exploitation, expedite the investigation of reported cases, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Thailand);**

100.71 **That a comprehensive prevention strategy together with adequate legislation be introduced to combat the high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence (Trinidad and Tobago);**

100.72 **Implement provisions in the National Human Rights Action Plan for the protection of vulnerable individuals, including children, persons with disabilities, persons with albinism, LGBT persons, and persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

100.73 **Ensure that all relevant laws, codified and customary, are brought into compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure strict application of the Children's Law (Slovenia);**

100.74 **Enact and effectively implement legislation and take other policy and program measures to fulfil treaty obligations to eliminate the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);**

100.75 **Amend discriminatory provisions based on sexual orientation or gender identity, in particular with regard to equality of access to services and public office (Uruguay);**

100.76 **Consider decriminalizing consensual same-sex relations (Brazil);**

100.77 **Repeal the legal provisions which criminalize LGBT persons (France);**

100.78 **Revoke the law criminalizing consensual sex between adults of the same sex (Poland);**

100.79 **Repeal the existing discriminatory regulation in its domestic law against the LGBT community (Spain);**

100.80 **Repeal 14.74 of the Penal Code and take all necessary legislative and other measures to eliminate discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Ireland);**

100.81 **Repeal sections of the Penal Code that criminalize sexual activities between consenting adults of the same sex and withdraw the two bills currently before the House of Representatives that would further criminalize same-sex relations (Canada);**

100.82 **Take legislative and policy measures to prevent and fight violence and to combat discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity (Colombia);**

100.83 **Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights established in 2011, the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary (Costa Rica);**

100.84 **Provide the Independent National Commission on Human Rights with adequate resources to assist it in discharging its core mandate (Egypt);**

100.85 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that the Independent National Human Rights Commission fully complies with the Paris Principles (France);**

100.86 **Boost the investigative capacity of the National Independent Human Rights Commission and ensure full participation by civil society in its work (Mexico);**

100.87 **Strengthen the capacity of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, providing it with the necessary means to allow it to coordinate human rights monitoring, investigation and field activities (Portugal);**

100.88 **Take necessary measures to develop internal governance procedures in order that the Independent National Commission on Human Rights could perform its mandated role, in particular by ensuring adequate funding for the Commission (Republic of Korea);**

100.89 **Give continuity to the strengthening of national human rights institutions and mechanisms (Nepal);**

100.90 **Continue strengthening the capacity of government institutions on human rights and the application of a human rights-based approach (Sudan);**

100.91 **Continue efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights within the framework of the National Human Rights Action Plan established since 2013 (Algeria);**

100.92 **Continue strengthening the institutional capacity in the human rights sector in the country, particularly through promotion, dissemination and human rights education in the various national institutions, and establish follow-up mechanisms for human rights recommendations (Colombia);**

100.93 **Continue strengthening the capacity of government institutions, including the judiciary, police, prison service and government ministries, on the application of a human rights-based approach (Zimbabwe);**

100.94 **Strengthen support measures for vulnerable persons (Angola);**

100.95 **Strengthen protection measures for children and vulnerable persons (Senegal);**

100.96 **Take effective measures to implement the provisions in the National Human Rights Action Plan concerning the protection of vulnerable groups, especially concerning the fight against sexual violence against women and girls (China);**

100.97 **Strengthen legislative provisions that exist to promote gender equality (Equatorial Guinea);**

100.98 **Continue with the measures aimed at promoting and protecting effectively in law and in practice the human rights of women (Colombia);**

100.99 **Implement a human rights training programme and the necessary legal reforms to avoid the practice of female genital mutilation (Costa Rica);**

100.100 **Implement the awareness-raising programme to fight against domestic violence against women and girls (Switzerland);**

100.101 **Set up a mechanism to fight more effectively discrimination against women, prevent and punish sexual and gender-based violence, ban female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices and effectively enforce the ban while stepping up the fight against these practices through public-awareness campaigns (Czech Republic);**

100.102 **With regard to the rule of law, launch informative programmes to raise awareness of anti-corruption mechanisms, such as the Professional Standard Division, as well as increase the funding of such institutions (Germany);**

100.103 **Develop Human Rights Indicators, an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of the human rights policies of a country (Portugal);**

100.104 **Continue its efforts to raise public awareness of human rights (Sudan);**

100.105 **Submit overdue reports to the relevant United Nations treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

100.106 **Submit the initial report to the Committee against Torture, as well as all due reports to other treaty bodies (Togo);**

100.107 **Issue standing invitations to all special procedures (Ghana);**

100.108 **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures, as accepted during the first cycle of the universal periodic review of Liberia, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

100.109 **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures in order to improve its cooperation with the international community in the field of human rights (Turkey);**

100.110 **Step up its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests of the special procedures mandate holders without delay (Latvia);**

100.111 **Strengthen its cooperation with the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Tunisia);**

100.112 **Continue to work with the United Nations Mission in Liberia and other partners to prepare for the national takeover, including concrete measures to reduce gender-based violence and to strengthen the justice and security sectors (Norway);**

100.113 **Continue to engage the international community for assistance in addressing the menace of domestic violence, harmful traditional practices and trafficking in persons (Philippines);**

100.114 **Continue to strengthen the capacity of domestic institutions to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including through cooperation with the international community (Singapore);**

100.115 **Put an end to the widespread gender discrimination which particularly affects girls living in rural areas (Congo);**

100.116 **Eliminate all forms of discrimination, particularly against children in vulnerable situations (Ghana);**

100.117 **Eliminate all forms of discrimination particularly against vulnerable children (Congo);**

100.118 **Take steps to harmonize her nationality laws in order to provide women with the right to pass on their rights of nationality to children born abroad, on an equal basis with men (Kenya);**

100.119 **Do more to fight discrimination against Liberian women by allowing them to transmit their nationalities to their children and their spouses (Senegal);**

100.120 **Combat discrimination and all types of violence against women in the country, and multiply efforts for the empowerment of women in every area of life (Turkey);**

100.121 **Condemn discrimination, particularly that based on sexual orientation and identity (Madagascar);**

100.122 **Ensure to LGBTI persons the full enjoyment and equal treatment of their human rights by derogating norms that criminalize and stigmatize them (Argentina);**

100.123 **Combat all forms of discrimination and abuse against LGBTI persons (Italy);**

100.124 **Put forward more efforts to protect victims of Ebola and seek solutions for the human rights concerns arising from discrimination and stigmatization of patients, victims, survivors and health workers (Republic of Korea);**

100.125 **Further improve the birth registration system and support it by awareness-raising activities, in order to boost the registration numbers (Turkey);**

100.126 **Fight the increased rate of persons subjected to sexual and gender-based violence (Angola);**

100.127 **Intensify efforts to ensure gender equality and eliminate gender-based violence (Botswana);**

100.128 **Continue its efforts to fight against violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and adopt legislation criminalizing this harmful practice (Canada);**

100.129 **Intensify efforts to ensure gender equality and eliminate gender-based violence, including sexual violence and harmful traditional practices (Estonia);**

100.130 **Fight female genital mutilation and early marriage (Angola);**

100.131 **Continue to combat violence against women, particularly female genital mutilation and sexual violence, ensure that this violence is always prosecuted, and continue to organize awareness-raising campaigns on this issue (France);**

100.132 **Intensify efforts to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and to specifically criminalize female genital mutilation as well as to take all necessary measures to ensure its eradication (Ireland);**

100.133 **Continue working to combat child, early and forced marriage, to legally prohibit female genital mutilations and to increase support to girls from the poorest households and rural areas who are reportedly more at risk of being subject to these practices (Italy);**

100.134 **Take further effective measures to address the continued high crime rates in the areas of sexual violence against women and the trafficking of women and children (Japan);**

100.135 **Significantly step up its efforts in addressing the reportedly high number of rape cases, particularly against young victims, and gender-based violence (Latvia);**

100.136 **Continue to make traditional communities aware of the consequences in terms of human rights abuses of harmful traditional practices (Mauritania);**

100.137 **Continue combating female genital mutilation (Ethiopia);**

100.138 **Continue to criminalize and ultimately eradicate sexual and gender-based violence such as female genital mutilation and harmful traditional practices, including trials by ordeal (Republic of Korea);**

100.139 **Intensify efforts towards the total eradication of female genital mutilation (Rwanda);**

100.140 **Strengthen efforts on combating sexual and gender-based violence as well as female genital mutilation (South Africa);**

100.141 **Increase the efforts by the Ministry of the Interior to combat the practice of female genital mutilation, particularly in rural areas, preventing and prosecuting criminally this practice (Spain);**

100.142 **Ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, including through public awareness-raising and measures to improve investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence (Sweden);**

100.143 **Further intensify its efforts to promote gender equality and to combat gender-based violence, including the rapes of minors and the most frequently reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence (Switzerland);**

100.144 **Ensure that perpetrators of gender-specific violence and rape of minors are held accountable for their actions and improve the access to health services and economic assistance for victims (Switzerland);**

100.145 **Increase public awareness campaigns against female genital mutilation (Timor-Leste);**

100.146 **Criminalize female genital mutilation or cutting and spousal rape, and increase the number of public awareness campaigns focused on preventing violence against women and girls, with particular emphasis on rape, domestic violence, and female genital mutilation or cutting (United States of America);**

100.147 **Systematically pursue current initiatives to change harmful practices against women and children, in particular female genital mutilation and early marriage (Cabo Verde);**

100.148 **Eliminate all forms of child labour (Benin);**

100.149 **Take all necessary measures to abolish corporal punishment for children at all institutions, including alternative care settings (Namibia);**

100.150 **Deepen the national dialogue to establish an accountability mechanism for human rights violations committed in the past (Argentina);**

100.151 **Strengthen the judicial and law enforcement system and eliminate corruption (China);**

100.152 **Investigate and prosecute police misconduct, in accordance with international standards, and strengthen institutional capacities to fight against corruption among police officials (Slovakia);**

100.153 **Continue and increase efforts to reduce impunity for those responsible for embezzlement of public money (Norway);**

100.154 **Continue to intensify efforts to strengthen the rule of law and the criminal justice system by developing the capacity of the judicial, legal and security sectors (Singapore);**

100.155 **Take all necessary measures to improve court proceedings to guarantee the right of detainees to a fair trial within a reasonable time (Slovakia);**

100.156 **Take the appropriate measures to improve the conditions of detainees, in particular those awaiting trial (Spain);**

100.157 **Implement alternative measures to deprivation of liberty in cases involving minors, and when they are deprived of their liberty afford them all necessary guarantees (Spain);**

100.158 **Further enhance Liberia's legal system to promote effective and smooth judicial procedure (Japan);**

100.159 **Strengthen the judicial system in order to ensure respect for due process, and reform the system of pre-trial detention (Czech Republic);**

100.160 **Continue judicial reform to improve access to justice by promoting better coverage throughout the country and by updating its prison system (Morocco);**

100.161 **Assure the sustainability of the regional justice and security hubs and that they are clearly taken into account in the budgeting process and included in the final national budget for 2016 (Finland);**

100.162 **Pursue judicial reform, especially to improve access to justice and to fight the inappropriate use of preventive detention (France);**

100.163 **Continue investing in women's empowerment and promoting their participation in all aspects of the State machinery (Nepal);**

100.164 **Continue the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to foster national harmony (Senegal);**

100.165 **Reinforce efforts to improve the standard of living of all Liberians (Zimbabwe);**

100.166 **Continue its efforts to guarantee the best implementation of the 2012 long-term, comprehensive strategy for development (Libya);**

100.167 **Ensure the effective implementation of the right to development by strengthening local capacity (Ethiopia);**

100.168 **Increase its efforts to improve the living standards of its population and particularly the access to health care, education, work and safe drinking water (Togo);**

100.169 **Establish a regulatory framework for monitoring the activities of multinational companies operating in the country to ensure rights to development (Uganda);**

100.170 **Continue strengthening its social programmes to improve the living conditions of its people, particularly the most excluded, with the cooperation and technical assistance that is requested by the country (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

100.171 **Implement programmes focused on employability, entrepreneurship and microfinance to make sure that young people find it easier to join the labour market (Morocco);**

100.172 **Enhance and expand its health-care system to cover the whole country (Thailand);**

100.173 **Continue efforts in the field of health in the framework of the National Health and Social Welfare Policy and Plan (2011–2021) (Algeria);**

100.174 **Establish a follow-up mechanism for the National Health and Social Welfare Policy and Plan (2011–2021) (Equatorial Guinea);**

100.175 **Put in place an accessible health-care system and consider applying the Technical Guidance on preventable mortality and morbidity of children under the age of 5 years, which was developed by the World Health Organization (Botswana);**

100.176 **Improve the population's access to health with the support of the international community, in accordance with its national interests (Cuba);**

100.177 **Continue to improve access to basic health-care services, especially for antenatal care and patients affected by HIV and the Ebola virus (Trinidad and Tobago);**

100.178 **Take actions to lessen the economic and social effects which have been the outcome of the Ebola epidemic (Cuba);**

100.179 **Intensify efforts to seek necessary funding to address economic and social rights, in the wake of the Ebola crisis (Sierra Leone);**

100.180 **Strengthen efforts towards the realization of the rights to education and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the post-Ebola recovery period (South Africa);**

100.181 **Increase children's access to the education system (Angola);**

100.182 **Step up efforts to improve the functioning of the education system to make it easier for all children, including children with disabilities, to have access to education (Congo);**

100.183 **Intensify its efforts to eradicate illiteracy, especially among women and girls (Latvia);**

100.184 **Secure equal rights for boys and girls in the education system and put in place targeted measures to reduce the high dropout rates of girls from high schools (Norway);**

100.185 **That a strategic plan be implemented to ensure that all schools and educational institutions are reopened in the near future (Trinidad and Tobago);**

100.186 **Strengthen the national bodies responsible for ensuring the protection of persons with disability against all forms of violations that they may be subjected to and promote their full integration into society (Côte d'Ivoire).**

101. **All conclusions and recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State and the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

*[English only]*

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Liberia was headed by H.E. Ms. Julia M. Duncan-Cassell, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and was composed of the following members:

- Ms. Sarah Gibson, Legal Consultant, Human Rights Unit, Ministry of Justice
- Mr. Tate, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of Liberia in Geneva
- Mr. Abraham Kamara, Legal Officer, Permanent Mission of Liberia in Geneva

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**Thirtieth session**
Agenda item 6
**Universal Periodic Review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

## Liberia

### Addendum

### Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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The Republic of Liberia welcomes, once again, the recommendations made by Member States and would like to reaffirm its sustained commitment to the protection and promotion of the human rights. Liberia has carefully considered the recommendations in consultation with relevant stakeholders and respectfully submits the following responses to the Human Rights Council.

| *Recommendations* | *Liberian positions* | *Explanatory notes* |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Noted | Liberia is already a party to many of the core international human rights instruments. Liberia favorably considers the signature and ratification of other human rights instruments. However, Liberia chooses to note this recommendation due to its broad nature. |
| 2. | Noted | See No. 1. |
| 3. | Noted | See No. 1. |
| 4. | Noted | See No. 1. |
| 5. | Accepted | Liberia acceded to CEDAW in 1984 and is therefore already a State Party. Liberia has signed the ICRMW and intends to ratify the ICRMW in due course. |
| 6. | Noted | Liberia has not yet signed the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR but views signature favorably. |
| 7. | Accepted | Liberia has already ratified OP-CAT and looks forward to working with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture to implement the OP-CAT. |
| 8. | Accepted | Liberia has signed the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and intends to ratify it in due course. |
| 9. | Accepted | Liberia warmly welcomes all the recommendations relating to the protection of the rights of the child; hence, Liberia intends to ratify the Optional Protocols on the rights of the child during the implementation period of the National Human rights Action Plan as evident in the fact that Liberia has already taken legislative measures to domesticate the protocol. Article 3, section 22 of the 2011 Children's Law enshrines the right of children to be protected from violence during armed conflict, and prohibits the recruitment of child soldiers. |
| 10. | Noted | See No. 9. |
| 11. | Accepted | See No. 9. |
| 12. | Noted | See No. 9. |
| 13. | Accepted | See No. 9. |
| 14. | Accepted | See No. 9. |
| 15. | Accepted | See No. 9. |
| 16. | Accepted | See No. 9. |
| 17. | Accepted | Liberia remains committed to protecting all with in its border from politically motivated disappearances. |

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|---|---|---|
| 18. | Accepted | See No. 17. |
| 19. | Accepted | See Nos. 5 and 17. |
| 20. | Accepted | See No. 5. |
| 21. | Accepted | See No. 5. |
| 22. | Noted | Liberia has signed the Optional Protocol to the CRPD and favorably considers ratification. Nonetheless, Liberia must move cautiously in light of the financial and social implications of ratifying human rights instruments. |
| 23. | Noted | The Government of Liberia intends to maintain the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty until such time as the peace and security is fully consolidated. |
| 24. | Noted | See No. 23. |
| 25. | Noted | See No. 23. |
| 26. | Noted | See No. 23. |
| 27. | Noted | See No. 23. |
| 28. | Noted | See No. 23. |
| 29. | Noted | |
| 30. | Noted | |
| 31. | Noted | |
| 32. | Noted | |
| 33. | Noted | |
| 34. | Noted | |
| 35. | Noted | |
| 36. | Noted | |
| 37. | Noted | |
| 38. | Noted | |
| 39. | Noted | |
| 40. | Accepted | |
| 41. | Noted | |
| 42. | Noted | |
| 43. | Accepted | |
| 44. | Accepted | |
| 45. | Accepted | The principle of equality is already included in the Constitution under article 11(b), which provides that "all persons, irrespective of ethnic background, race, sex, creed, place of origin, or political opinion, are entitled to the |

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|---|---|---|
| | | fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual..." Nonetheless, a number of provisions that further clarify the equal rights of men and women are included in the recommendations made by the Constitution Review Committee. As noted, these provide for equal access to economic and social opportunities and greater participation in governance and national affairs. |
| 46. | Accepted | See No. 45. |
| 47. | Accepted | |
| 48. | Accepted | See No. 45. |
| 49. | Accepted | |
| 50. | Accepted | |
| 51. | Accepted | |
| 52. | Accepted | |
| 53. | Accepted | Liberia believes that the Children's Law domesticates the vast majority of the provisions of the CRC, but acknowledges the need to undertake further review to ensure that this and other laws are in conformity with the CRC. |
| 54. | Accepted | Liberia wishes to re-engage with the SPT to create a national preventative mechanism (NPM). A provision to create an NPM has been included in a proposed anti-torture bill currently under consideration by the Legislature. |
| 55. | Noted | There are no laws in Liberia that expressly discriminate against human rights defenders. |
| 56. | Noted | Liberia does not have any laws that expressly restrict these activities. The Press Union of Liberia, in collaboration with the Independent Information Commission, has drafted an act to decriminalize aspects of defamation and libel, which is now under consideration by the Legislature. |
| 57. | Accepted | A draft Domestic Violence Act was submitted to the Legislature in August following the submission of the national report in 2015. |
| 58. | Accepted | Liberia has already done so through article 4 of the Children's Law. |
| 59. | Accepted | This right is already protected under article 28 of the 1986 Constitution, thereby nullifying provisions of the Alien Nationality Law promulgated under the 1847 Constitution. |
| 60. | Accepted | The draft Domestic Violence Act contains a provision explicitly prohibiting FGM on children under the age of 18 and on adults 18 and over who do not consent to the practice. If adopted, this will criminalize FGM performed on children in the context of domestic relationships. |

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| 61. | Accepted | See No. 60. The Supreme Court has already ruled that the practice of trial by ordeal is illegal. The draft Domestic Violence Act also prohibits trial by ordeal, "sassywood," and "other cultural torture." |
| 62. | Accepted | See No. 60. Liberia welcomes those aspects of the recommendation that provide for increasing awareness on the harmful consequences of FGM., and, as noted in its National Report, has already taken measures to do so. |
| 63. | Accepted | As noted, the Act is before the Legislature. |
| 64. | Accepted | Liberia accepts all provisions of this recommendation. |
| 65. | Accepted | See No. 45. |
| 66. | Accepted | See No. 59. |
| 67. | Accepted | See No. 60 |
| 68. | Accepted | This is a crucial component of Liberia's security transition plan. SGBV Units of the Ministry of Justice will be established at all five regional justice and security hubs, and officers of the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) of the Liberia National Police (LNP) will be assigned at all five hubs. |
| 69. | Accepted | Efforts to improve access to justice for victims of SGBV and the investigative capacity of the LNP are ongoing. |
| 70. | Accepted | See No. 69. |
| 71. | Accepted | The Government jointly with the UN has developed comprehensive prevention strategy which is currently being re-launched. |
| 72. | Accepted | |
| 73. | Accepted | See No. 53. |
| 74. | Accepted | The Children's Law addresses child labour and exploitation, as does the Anti-Human Trafficking Act. In 2014, Liberia also launched a national policy to fight human trafficking. Liberia is committed to abolishing the worst forms of child labour. |
| 75. | Noted | It is not the policy of the State to discriminate based on LBGT status. However, the Government must proceed with caution due to the religious and cultural climate of Liberia in this regard. Robust awareness and sensitization on this matter, which is ongoing, will must inform the Government on the proper course of action before any such action is taken. |
| 76. | Noted | See No. 75. |
| 77. | Noted | See No. 75. |
| 78. | Noted | See No. 75. |

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| 79. | Noted | See No. 75. |
| 80. | Noted | See No. 75. |
| 81. | Noted | See No. 75. |
| 82. | Noted | See No. 75. |
| 83. | Accepted | |
| 84. | Accepted | Needs capacity and technical support. |
| 85. | Accepted | See No. 84. |
| 86. | Accepted | See No. 84. |
| 87. | Accepted | See No. 84. |
| 88. | Accepted | See No. 84. |
| 89. | Accepted | See No. 84. |
| 90. | Accepted | See No. 84. |
| 91. | Accepted | See No. 84. |
| 92. | Accepted | |
| 93. | Accepted | |
| 94. | Accepted | |
| 95. | Accepted | The Constitution Review Committee has advanced a recommendation to amend the Constitution to enhance protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Liberia also has included the protection of vulnerable persons in strategies such as the NHRAP and the AFT. |
| 96. | Accepted | See No. 72. |
| 97. | Accepted | See Nos. 72 and 95. |
| 98. | Accepted | The draft Domestic Violence Act is before the Legislature. |
| 99. | Accepted | Liberia welcomes this recommendation. See also No. 60. |
| 100. | Accepted | See Note 99 |
| 101. | Accepted | See No.99. |
| 102. | Accepted | |
| 103. | Accepted | Liberia has already begun developing human rights indicators to track implementation of the NHRAP. |
| 104. | Accepted | |
| 105. | Accepted | A national strategy on treaty body reporting has been developed, and a draft Common Core Document finalized. |
| 106. | Accepted | |

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| 107. | Accepted | See No. 106. |
| 108. | Accepted | See No. 106. |
| 109. | Accepted | A Standing Invitation to the Special Procedures has been issued. |
| 110. | Accepted | See No. 109. |
| 111. | Accepted | See No. 109. |
| 112. | Accepted | See No. 109. |
| 113. | Accepted | See No. 109. |
| 114. | Accepted | See No. 109. |
| 115. | Accepted | |
| 116. | Accepted | |
| 117. | Accepted | |
| 118. | Accepted | See No. 45. |
| 119. | Accepted | See No. 45. |
| 120. | Accepted | |
| 121. | Accepted | See No. 75. |
| 122. | Noted | See No. 75. |
| 123. | Accepted | See No. 75. |
| 124. | Accepted | |
| 125. | Accepted | |
| 126. | Accepted | See No. 68. |
| 127. | Accepted | |
| 128. | Accepted | See note 60. |
| 129. | Accepted | |
| 130. | Accepted | See note 60 |
| 131. | Accepted | See No. 60. |
| 132. | Accepted | See No. 60. |
| 133. | Accepted | See No. 60. |
| 134. | Accepted | See Nos. 68 and 69. |
| 135. | Accepted | See Nos. 68 and 69. |
| 136. | Accepted | |
| 137. | Accepted | |

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| 138. | Accepted | |
| 139. | Accepted | |
| 140. | Accepted | |
| 141. | Accepted | See Nos. 60. |
| 142. | Accepted | See No. 60. |
| 143. | Accepted | See No. 149. |
| 144. | Accepted | |
| 145. | Accepted | |
| 146. | Accepted | See Nos. 60. |
| 147. | Accepted | See No. 62 |
| 148. | Accepted | See No. 74. |
| 149. | Noted | |
| 150. | Accepted | |
| 151. | Accepted | |
| 152. | Accepted | |
| 153. | Accepted | Following the submission of the National Report, the Minister of Justice established an anti-corruption litigation unit within the Ministry of Justice. |
| 154. | Accepted | |
| 155. | Accepted | |
| 156. | Accepted | The Government of Liberia will involve the expertise of the SPT and other partners to further address this recommendation. |
| 157. | Accepted | The Juvenile Justice Diversion Programme is addressing this recommendation. |
| 158. | Accepted | |
| 159. | Accepted | |
| 160. | Accepted | |
| 161. | Accepted | In addition to operational responsibility, the government is gradually assuming financial responsibility for the regional justice and security hubs. |
| 162. | Accepted | See No. 157. Liberian laws do not provide for preventive detention. |
| 163. | Accepted | |
| 164. | Accepted | Liberia accepts this recommendation, subject to the ruling of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of some of the recommendations, and also subject to available resources and the political implications of implementation. |
| 165. | Accepted | |

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| 166. | Accepted | |
| 167. | Accepted | |
| 168. | Accepted | Liberia has made improvement in this area a key pillar of its Agenda for Transformation and is striving to improve the standard of living. The Government's focus on health and education under the post Ebola Recovery Plan will also help to improve the standard of living. |
| 169. | Accepted | |
| 170. | Accepted | See No.168. |
| 171. | Accepted | |
| 172. | Accepted | |
| 173. | Accepted | |
| 174. | Accepted | |
| 175. | Accepted | This is provided for in the National Plan for Health and Social Welfare and in the Agenda for Transformation. Liberia has also been working with international partners to improv health care services and delivery following the Ebola outbreak as a matter of high priority. |
| 176. | Accepted | See No. 175. |
| 177. | Accepted | See No. 175. |
| 178. | Accepted | The Government has developed a post-Ebola recovery plan in close collaboration with Guinea and Sierra Leone, aimed at addressing the impact of Ebola on the economy and to lessen the social effects thereof. |
| 179. | Accepted | |
| 180. | Accepted | |
| 181. | Accepted | See Nos. 175, 181. The New Education Reform Law of 2011 provides for compulsory education for boys and girls. Liberia has also formulated a new educational strategy to strengthen the school system, which provides for the construction of schools around the country, a revamped curriculum, and measures to strengthen the quality and integrity of the educational experience. It also provides for recreational facilities as part of these more comprehensive facilities. |
| 182. | Accepted | The Constitution Review Committee has accepted a recommendation to enhance the protection of persons with disabilities, in particular with regard to their right to education. |
| 183. | Accepted | |
| 184. | Accepted | |
| 185. | Accepted | This recommendation has been implemented since Liberia was declared Ebola free by the WHO. |

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| 186 | Accepted | The Government continues to support the National Commission on Disabilities. Additionally, the Constitution Review Committee has accepted a recommendation to enhance protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly with regard to access to education and employment opportunities. |